Guingona vows to quit Lakas over Charter change

Story on PAGE A2

Did Dante Tan buy Australian citizenship?

A MAN believed to be the Chinese-Filipino businessman, who is wanted by Philippine corporate regulators over the insider trading case which contributed to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, has become an Australian citizen allegedly after contributing to the reelection fund of Australian Immigration Minister Philipp Ruddock.

DID/A20

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Wednesday, June 4, 2003 ★★ 54 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 176 P15

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THE TEAM to beat in 2004? A preview of the reported Macapagal-De Castro road show gets going in Seoul.

GMA, senators scoff at impeachment rap

New destabilization plot by Erap, says Drilon

By Cynthia D. Balana, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE IMPEACHMENT case filed against eight justices of the Supreme Court will not prosper, according to administration senators.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself brushed off the impeachment complaint filed Monday by deposed President Joseph Estrada against Chief Justice Hilario Davide and seven other justices for upholding the Macapagal administration's legitimacy two years ago.

"The legitimacy of the government has been upheld constitutionally, accepted by all nations and sustained in countless ways by unequivocal popular support. The Supreme Court will handily surmount this challenge," Ms Macapagal said in a statement issued in Malacañang yesterday. The President is in a state visit to South Korea.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he did not expect the complaint to prosper and reach the Senate, which sits as a judge in impeachment complaints, for lack of merit.

"Realistically, I don't think this will ever get past the House of Representatives. They themselves know this," Drilon said, referring to Estrada and his supporters.

"This is but another chapter in the now-familiar destabilization plot of the pro-Estrada forces in an attempt to erode the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration," Drilon said.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, lawyer of Estrada, asked the House of Representatives to impeach the eight justices for "culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust" for joining a military-backed pop-

GMA/A21

THE GRASS is greener against the lush red carpet rolled out on the Blue House lawn where South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun welcomes President Macapagal with her husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo. AFP

GMA lawyer off to US to finalize Balikatan

PRESIDENTIAL Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz is going to the United States to finalize ground rules for Balikatan exercises in Sulu later this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday, even as the commander in chief of the US Pacific Command arrives today to visit American forces already here.

Ms Macapagal did not say when Cruz would meet with US authorities.

But she emphasized that she had given "clear guidelines on strict adherence to the constitutional standards."

The Constitution bans foreign combat troops in the country.

In a statement she issued from South Korea, Ms Macapagal said: "In the interest of the Republic, I have decided that the proposed TOR (terms of reference) for a Balikatan 03-1 be given a final re-

GMA LAWYER/A19

Ate Glo, Kabayan spark talk of teamup

By Carlito Pablo *in Seoul* and Christine O. Avendaño *in Manila*

SEOUL (via PLDT)—Like a celebrity was how Filipinos in South Korea welcomed the man who, according to recent surveys, could bag either the presidency or the vice presidency in 2004.

At the Filipino community assembly held at the Lotte Hotel here Monday evening, Sen. Noli de Castro showed once again that the line that once distinguished TV personalities from politicians has blurred.

De Castro was the only member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's delegation who was mobbed by the Filipino expatriates. Male or female, they pushed

ATE GLO/A18

RP commits to help solve North Korean nuke crisis

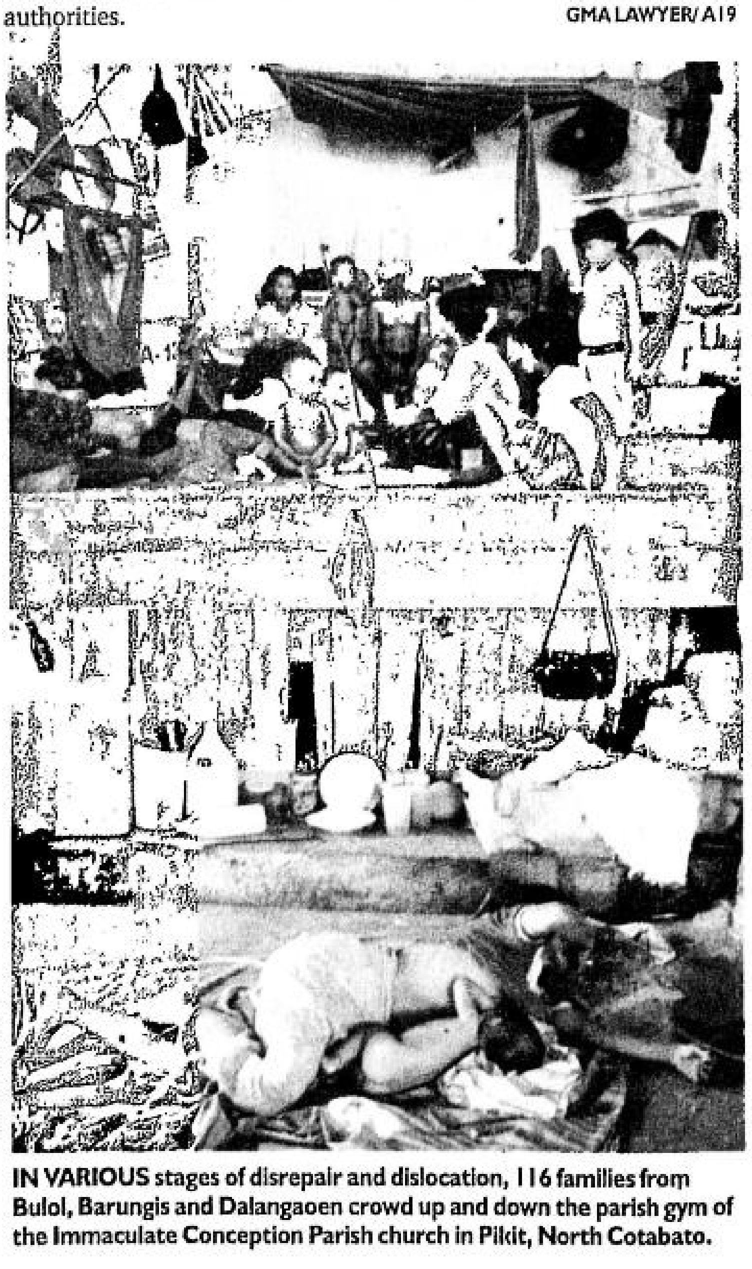
By Carlito Pablo

SEOUL (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday committed the Philippines to a lead role in the regional effort to help resolve the brewing international crisis over North Korea's missile and nuclear program.

The discussion over the North Korean issue was the highlight of Ms Macapagal's June 2-4 state visit to Seoul.

According to Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable, Ms

RP COMMITS/A18



EDWIN BACASMAS

IN VARIOUS stages of disrepair and dislocation, 116 families from Bulol, Barungis and Dalangaoen crowd up and down the parish gym of the Immaculate Conception Parish church in Pikit, North Cotabato.

From the White House to the Blue House

By Carlito Pablo

SEOUL (via PLDT)—A riot of color marked yesterday's formal reception for President Macapagal-Arroyo, the first state guest of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun since he assumed office in February.

It was as if a rainbow had descended on the lawn of the Blue House, the centuries-old royal villa that now serves as the official residence of the South Korean head of state.

Members of the honor guard decked in their service colors—green for the Army, blue for the Air Force, white for the Navy—stood at attention in front of a stage draped with a rich red carpet for the state guest.

To the left of the honor guard was a platoon of traditional military guards armed with long swords and wearing uniforms of yellow, green, black and red, and hats sporting tassels of red and yellow.

Farther left, musicians all decked in yellow blew long native trumpets and beat on drums.

On both sides of these formations stood flag bearers, their banners in multi-colors like their uniforms and featuring various insignias including two-headed birds of prey.

Also on the lawn where state visitors are received were about 100 schoolchildren waving miniature flags of the Philippines and South Korea.

FROM/A18

'Nardong Putik' mired in landgrab dispute

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Michael Lim Ubac

FARMERS from Cavite yesterday accused Sen. Ramon Revilla of forcing them to vacate a farm in Silang, Cavite, they and their forefathers have been tilling since 1911.

In a news conference in Quezon City, the farmers from Barangay Cabangaan said the former movie actor, famous for portraying underdog roles, was rescinding previous agreements and forcing them to vacate the 25-hectare agricultural property in six months.

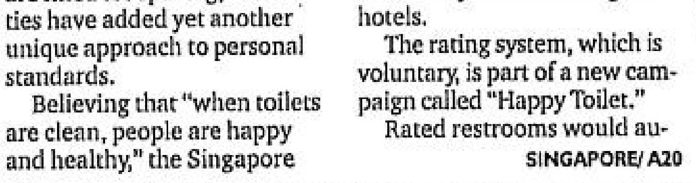
"It appears that the Senator wants us and our families to die of hunger by taking away the main source of our livelihood. He should recognize and respect our rights to the land we have long tilled," said Teodoro Garcia, chair of the Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Cabangaan (Samaca).

Garcia said he and the other families have been cultivating the land since the 1911 eruption of Taal Volcano. Some 37 farmer families, or 164 individuals, are using the land.

"Up to now, we're rendering those lands productive," he said. "Where will we go?"

But the family of Sen. Revilla,

NARDONG/A21



YUCH! THIS TOILET IS DISGUSTING!
BLEAH!

Singapore to rate toilets based on 5-star system

SINGAPORE—In this island nation where the sale of chewing gum is illegal and people are fined for spitting, authorities have added yet another unique approach to personal standards.

Believing that "when toilets are clean, people are happy and healthy," the Singapore Restroom Association will be adopting a rating system for public toilets similar to the five-star system used to grade hotels.

The rating system, which is voluntary, is part of a new campaign called "Happy Toilet."

Rated restrooms would au-

SINGAPORE/A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western section of Luzon will have occasional rains while the rest of Luzon and Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/04/03

Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Occasional Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Occasional Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Occasional Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Occasional Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

Guingona vows to quit Lakas over Cha-cha

By Norman Bordadora

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona Jr., the president of the ruling Lakas-CMD, yesterday said he was ready to face the consequences of going against the party position on Charter change, including being deposed as party head or booted out of the party altogether.

The party's national directorate decided on Monday night to throw its support behind House Speaker Jose de Venecia's campaign to amend the Constitution through a constitutional assembly, over Guingona's objections.

"I am used to being booted out for sticking to my principles. I was booted out of the Department of Foreign Affairs (over US policy disagreements) and I was (thrown) into prison for opposing martial law," Guingona said.

Guingona's latest contretemps with Lakas comes barely two months before the party starts deliberations in August to choose the party's presidential standard-bearer in 2004 elections and other candidates for elective positions.

He has already said that he will not seek a Senate seat, but is reportedly eyeing the party's nomination for either the presidency or the vice presidency.

Guingona warned that contrary to the claim of some Senate leaders, Charter change initiatives were far from being "dead on arrival" in the upper chamber.

"They are pushing for it. They only need two more votes for it to be deliberated on," Guingona said.

GUINGONA

"I am deeply disturbed that the move to ram Charter change down our throats through a constituent assembly comes at a time when President Macapagal-Arroyo is out of the country, with our country remaining in the dark about our own Chief Executive's actual position on the issue," the vice president said.

Guingona's main objection is to the proposal to amend certain protectionist economic provisions of the Constitution.

"They want to open up and subvert the sacred economic provisions of our Constitution which safeguard our national patrimony from rapacious business interests," he said.

He said the proposed parliamentary system, if it does materialize, would make changes in the Constitution as it wished.

He warned that this would open the national patrimony to foreigners and multinationals as the parity amendment did when it was appended to the 1935 Constitution after independence.

But the proposed "new parity" would sell the national patrimony not just to the US but to "all foreigners and multinational firms across the world," he said.

The Lakas national directorate voted 95 to 5 in approving a resolution calling for Congress to convene itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Charter, according to De Venecia, the party's national co-chair.

De Venecia said party leaders supported a shift to a unicameral-parliamentary form of government "with a fixed transition period not later than 2010."

He said it was made clear during the meeting that the constitutional changes would not cancel the May 2004 elections and that no term extensions would happen.

The Speaker said the amendments would be limited to changing the political structure of government.

"The proposal to amend economic provisions of the Constitution would be left to the new parliament to decide," he said.

Despite Guingona's speech urging party colleagues not to support Charter change, only five, including the vice president, voted against the resolution. The others were Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Representatives Monico Puentevella and Arturo Defensor.

Puentevella said he voted against because his Bacolod constituents felt that now was not the time to tinker with the Constitution. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Angara wants Cha-cha decided by referendum

By Michael Lim Ubac

UNABLE to gather enough numbers to support constitutional amendments in the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara now wants the "people" to decide on the wisdom of rewriting the nation's fundamental law.

Angara said that the Charter change should be put to a referendum to ascertain the real pulse of the entire country on this issue.

Angara made the announcement yesterday after a caucus he had convened Monday night failed to provide steam to Charter change initiatives.

Angara needs at least eight votes so that the 14-member Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revisions of codes and laws, which he chairs, could refer the issue to the plenary for debate, and eventually, to be put to a vote.

Angara maintained that he has enough senators to support Charter change through constituent assembly—a move favored by the House of Representatives.

However, the issue can no longer be calendared for plenary deliberations before the Senate adjourns on June 6.

Angara described the referendum option as the "third way," to distinguish it from the other modes of changing the charter—constituent assembly or constitutional convention.

"The focus of the third way is to put to rest this debate over procedure. As you may have noticed, the bulk of the discussion on constitutional change does not touch (on) the substance of the change, but (on the) how," said Angara.

With the third way, "we would have resolved, once and for all, the issue of change."

In a referendum, the people would be asked to answer three questions, he said.

"Number 1, whether they agree to change the Constitution or not. And if they do, what method—constituent assembly or constitutional convention?" he said.

"Then when do they want the change effected? Within 100 days of the inauguration of the next administration, within one year, within three years?" he added.

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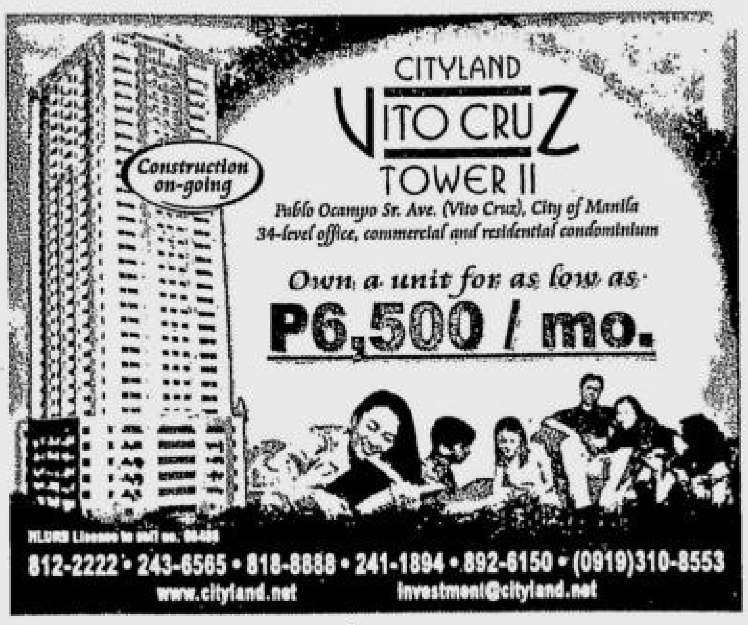
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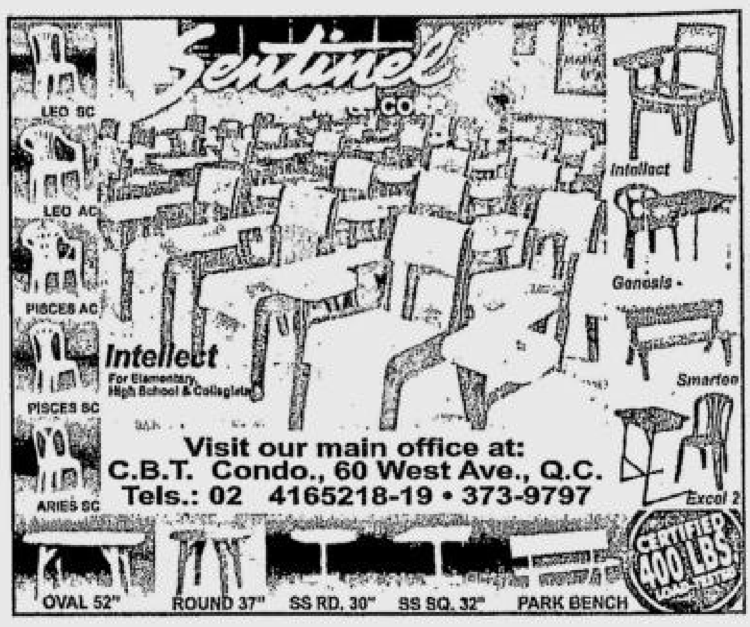
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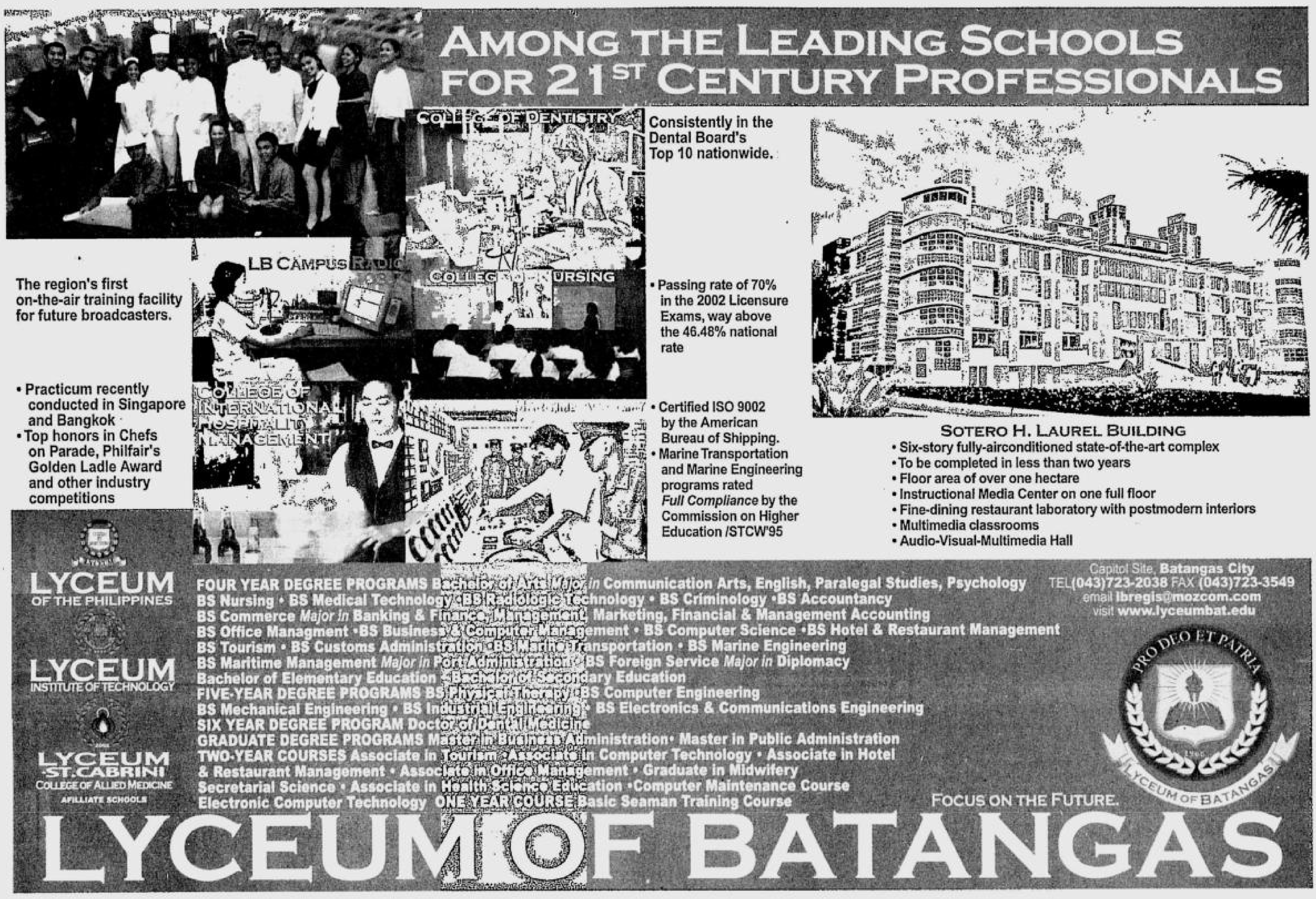
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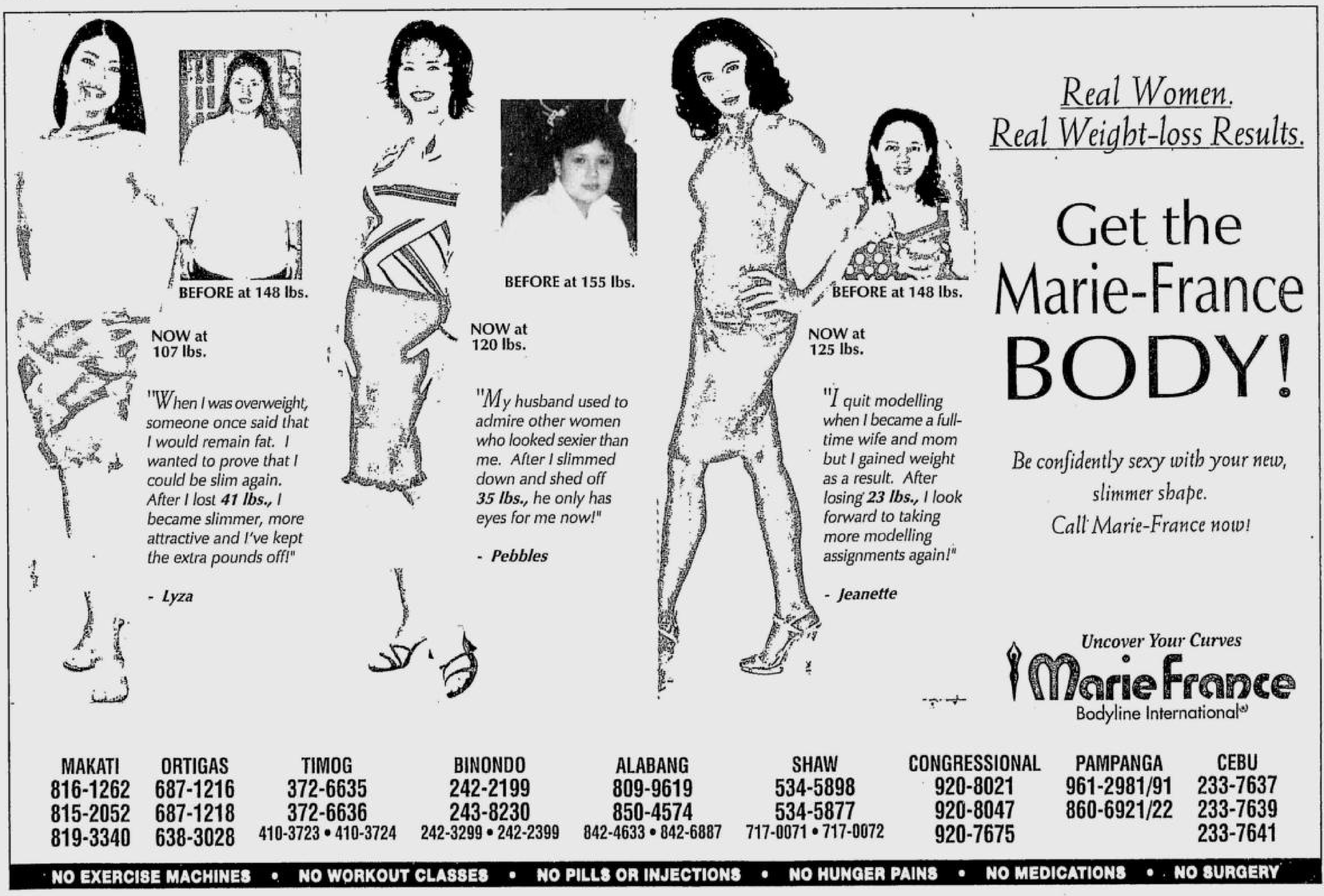

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*- **Lyza***

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 4, 2003
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 20:28-38
Gospel: Jn 17:11-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed, "I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world whereas I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your Name (that you have given me,) so that they may be one, just as we are.

"When I was with them, I kept them safe in your Name, and not one was lost except the one who was already lost, and in this the Scripture was fulfilled. But now I am coming to you and I leave these my words in the world that my joy may be complete in them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world; just as I am not of the world. I do not ask you to remove them from the world but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world; consecrate them in the truth-your word is truth.

"I have sent them into the world as you sent me into the world, and for their sake, I go to the sacrifice by which I am consecrated, so that they too may be consecrated in truth."

Commentary

With deep fraternal concern, Jesus prayed to his Father that he "father" his disciples too. He asked that the Father protect and guard them as he had so protected and guarded them, losing none of them while they were in his care. He allowed his disciples to hear this prayer so that the assurance of the Father's loving custody will allay their fears and anxiety. They had reason to fear, because now that they belonged to Jesus after having received the revelation about the Father, they would certainly be assailed by the son of perdition and all those who belong to his realm of darkness. Their weapon against him would be the truth of God as Father: if God is with us, who shall be against us? (Rom 8:31).

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Labor union as representative of its members in a pending case—A labor union is one such party authorized to represent its members under Article 242(a) of the Labor Code which provides that a union may act as the representative of its members for the purpose of collective bargaining. This authority includes the power to represent its members for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the CBA. That APCWU acted in a representative capacity "for and in behalf of its Union members and other employees similarly situated," the title of the case filed by it at the Labor Arbiter's Office so expressly states. While a party acting in a representative capacity, such as a union, may be permitted to intervene in a case, ordinarily, a person whose interests are already represented will not be permitted to do the same except when there is a suggestion of fraud or collusion or that the representative will not act in good faith for the protection of all interests represented by him. To reiterate, for a member of a class to be permitted to intervene in a representative action, fraud or collusion or lack of good faith on the part of the representative must be proven. It must be based on facts borne on record. Mere assertions, as what petitioners-appellants proffer, do not suffice. *[Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio-Morales, Third Division, Acedera v. International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), G.R. No. 146073. Jan. 13, 2003]* Digest by R. B. Vera

Tutors want cops out of drug tests

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

A NATIONWIDE public schoolteachers' association yesterday said they agreed with mandatory drug testing of high school and college students but insisted it should not be conducted by the police.

"While we support in principle the need to root out the drug menace, bringing cops to schools to conduct the tests might traumatize the students," said Tarcela Farolan, president of the 12,000-strong Teachers Organization of the Philippine Public Sector.

Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus said he also supported random drug testing for students and teachers but that the guidelines for the procedure, as well as the funds for it, would have to be issued first.

De Jesus said he is waiting for the implementing guidelines from the Dangerous Drugs Board, which is chaired by Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

"If it's the law, then we will implement it. I haven't talked with Secretary Lina about it and they have to issue the mechanism first on how it will be implemented," De Jesus told reporters.

Farolan said that putting up testing centers manned by armed and uniformed police officers in schools may create the impression among students that they were being prosecuted.

"Our government should understand that the school environment is very different and sensitive," Farolan said. "Any mistake in the way students are treated in school would affect them till they grow old."

Gov't withdraws deadline to MILF

By Dona Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG took back the June 1 deadline it gave the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to renounce terrorism or be declared a terrorist organization.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, yesterday said the government never seriously considered the idea.

Ermita said neither is the Organization of Islamic Conference, which monitors the situation in Mindanao, concerned about the MILF's alleged terrorist activities.

"The matter of tagging the MILF as terrorist is not really high in the agenda of the OIC, neither is it high in the agenda of the government. The important thing is that the government responds to the actions in field by the MILF," Ermita said in a press briefing.

He admitted that President Macapagal-Arroyo mentioned giving the MILF up to the end of the month to renounce its terrorist links, or risk being tagged as a terrorist.

"With all due respect to you, it was only the media who said the deadline is June 1," Ermita said.

Pimentel presses US-brokered peace in South

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to allow the United States to broker peace in Mindanao as requested by various sectors.

Pimentel said Washington was willing to assume the role of an "honest peace broker" between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front while the leadership of the MILF has openly endorsed the proposal.

"It is clear that the Americans want to help us run this country. Instead of asking them to come in as warriors, why don't we ask them to come in as diplomats to lay down the foundations for peace in Mindanao?" he said.

Pimentel said the political leaders of Mindanao, the Catholic bishops, and Muslim ulamas (religious leaders), and the Senate-House members have agreed that the entry of US into the peace process would spark fresh hope to achieve peace in Southern Philippines.

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, Lanao del Sur Rep. Jun Macarambon (2nd District) and Lanao del Sur Rep. Faysah Dumarpa (1st District) have expressed the sentiments of Muslim lawmakers that the peace talks will move faster with the US participation as third-party mediator considering its clout, expertise and resources.

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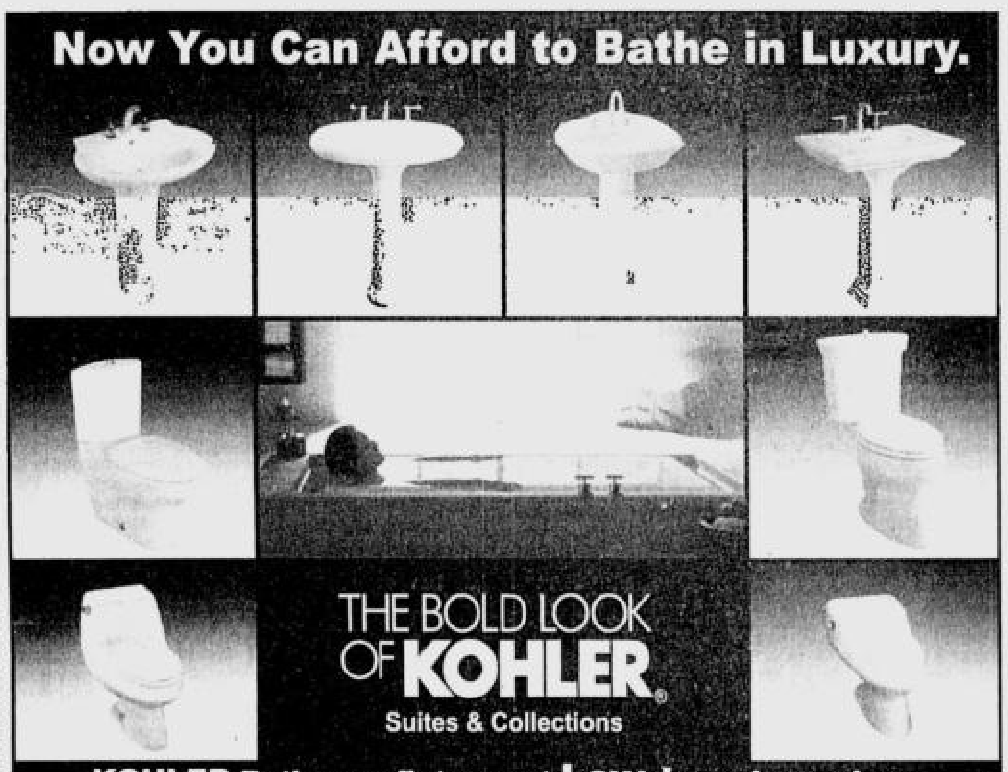

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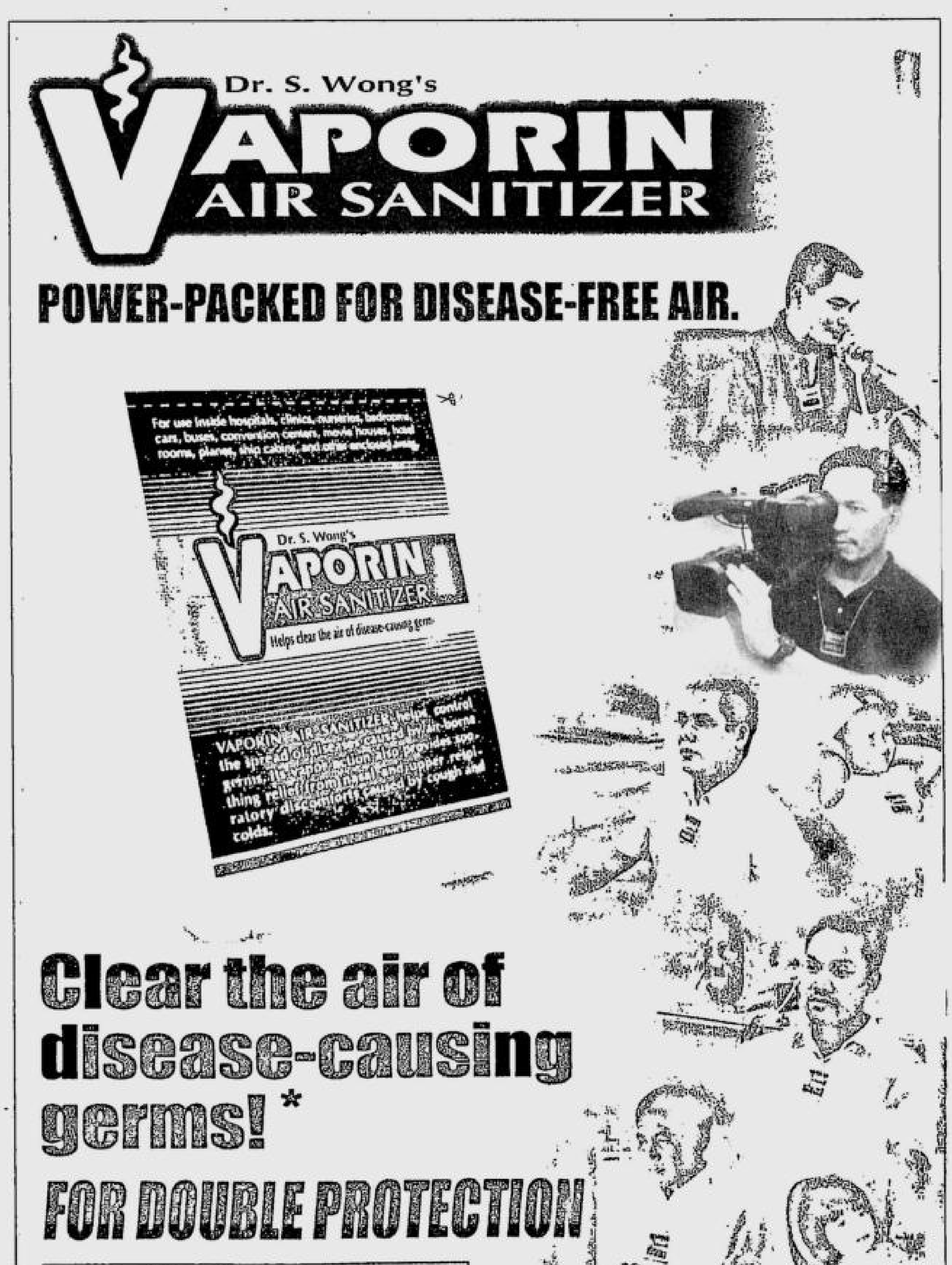
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BOARD OF MARINE INQUIRY

Probers doubt if sunken boat had radar

By Luige del Puerto

BASED on a document that the shipping company itself submitted to the Board of Marine Inquiry, the ill-fated MV San Nicolas may not have had a radar on board when it sank on May 25 after colliding with the bigger Super Ferry 12 at the mouth of the Manila Bay.

The document from the National Telecommunications Commission listed the equipment the San Nicolas has had since September 2000.

The equipment included a VHF radio, but the slots for RDF (radio direction finder) and receiver and transceiver marked with exes or negatives, which means the ship did not have a radar.

San Nicolas general manager Lemuel Fabula denied this, claiming that the Maritime Industry Authority had audited the ship's equipment last February and had found a radar on board.

The San Nicolas captain, Celso Ibañez, and chief mate, Ernesto Fampula, maintained that the ship was equipped with a radio since 1998.

The two also told the board they first noticed the Super Ferry 12 over the ship's radar at about two miles away.

Fampula said the ship's radar was the Koden brand.

Capt. Jovito Tamayo, the director of the Maritime Industry Authority and vice chair of the inquiry, said the board was inclined to believe that the San Nicolas did not have a radar at the time of the collision.

"A document does not lie. We will have to verify this. I have directed the management of San Nicolas to provide us with the purchase order, or other documents that would prove the ship had a radio," Tamayo said.

Tamayo also noted that photographs of the San Nicolas did not show a radar antenna or "any equipment" that would resemble a radar antenna.

But the shipping company's five other ships, with the same build as the San Nicolas, have a radar system, a recent check by Coast Guard authorities showed.

Rear Admiral Domingo Estera said diving for the sunken vessel to check whether it had a radar or not was out of the question.

"It is now 100 fathoms under the sea. We do not have the capability to dive that deep," he said.

For the 49-year-old Ibañez, yesterday may well have been the worst day of his life as he went through the most intense questioning since the inquiry started last week.

To the board members who conducted the inquiry, Ibañez failed to answer "substantially" questions regarding the position of the ship and what steps he undertook to avert the collision.

One member said it appeared Ibañez had a limited knowledge of radar systems.

Under cross-examination, Ibañez admitted he did not plot nor track the position of the Super Ferry when they noticed the latter on the radar two miles away, contrary to what he stated in his marine protest.

Ibañez also said he was not sure where the bigger vessel was heading, even when he confirmed a command by his chief mate to veer to the right.

"What was sure was that a vessel was in front of us, I could see the object on the radar," he told the inquiry.

The inquiry officially ended yesterday.

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myDream JCB CARD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND REMINDERS

- Must be 21 to 65 years old for principal and 13 to 65 years old for supplementary.
- Must be an existing Principal cardholder for at least 12 months with a credit limit of P20,000 and above of any of the following credit cards: Locally issued Mastercard, Visa, JCB, Diners Club, American Express, BPI or Unicard.
- Must have a landline in the place of work/business.
- Billing address must be within the areas of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Quezon, Cebu City, or Davao City.
- Applications without the required documents or with incomplete information will not be processed.
- Applicant must sign and complete the application form placing N.A. where Not Applicable.
- Previously declined applicants can only re-apply after six (6) months.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

A. For myDream JCB Card Application
- Signed myDream JCB application form
- Latest three (3)months Statement of Account (SOA) from the other credit cards (ORIGINAL)
- Statement of Account at least 12 months ago as proof that your account is at least one year old (ORIGINAL)

B. For Balance Transfer to myDream JCB (pls. refer to the Balance Transfer mechanics)

ABOUT YOU

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE (must be between 21 to 65 years old) mm dd yy
SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
CIVIL STATUS ☐ Single ☐ Separated ☐ Married ☐ Widowed
CITIZENSHIP
HOME PHONE NO
CELL PHONE NO.
TAX IDENTIFICATION NO. (TIN)
EMAIL ADDRESS
MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
HOME ADDRESS (all fields must be filled up properly)
House No. & Street
Subdivision/Barangay
Town/Municipality
City/Province
Zip Code
HOME OWNERSHIP
Years Months of Stay
Owned (not mortgaged)
Owned (mortgaged)
☐ Living with Parents/Relatives
☐ Rented
DO YOU OWN A CAR?
☐ No
☐ Yes. How many?
☐ Not mortgaged
☐ Mortgaged
NO. OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ☐ High School ☐ Some College ☐ College ☐ Post-Graduate

YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS

EMPLOYMENT ☐ Private Sector ☐ Government ☐ Self-Employed ☐ Retired
NAME OF COMPANY
ADDRESS (all fields must be filled up properly)
Department
Floor and Building
No. and Street
Subdivision/Barangay
Town/Municipality
City/Province
Zip Code
Telephone No.
Years
Months of Stay (with Company/Business)
NATURE OF BUSINESS
POSITION
OCCUPATION
TOTAL GROSS ANNUAL INCOME
BASIC P ____________ per annum
OTHERS/NON-FIXED (e.g. Commission, Allowance, etc.)
Description Annual Amount
TOTAL

YOUR SPOUSE

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy
☐ Employed ☐ Self Employed ☐ Others
Telephone No.
NAME OF COMPANY
ADDRESS
POSITION

PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS (your Card & Monthly Statements will be delivered here)
☐ Home ☐ Office

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Applications for a myDream JCB card from existing Bankard cardholders will be accepted only if the cardholder has been a member for at least 12 months in his current Bankard credit card (e.g., if the cardholder has a Bankard MasterCard issued April 2003, he can apply for a myDream JCB card in April 2004).

ARE YOU AN EXISTING BANKARD/RCBC CARDHOLDER: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Card Number Credit Limit Issue Date

NO. OF OTHER CREDIT CARDS (non-Bankard) ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ More than 2

Card Brand	Card Number	Credit Limit	Issue Date

DEPOSITS

Bank/Branch	Type of Account (Savings/Current/Time Deposit)

EXTENSION CARDS (for immediate family only, 13 years old and above)

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy
TEL. NO.
RELATIONSHIP
SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
Signature of Extension Cardholder 1
✓

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy
TEL. NO.
RELATIONSHIP
SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
Signature of Extension Cardholder 2
✓

COMPLETE NAME
Last First Middle (in full)
Name to appear on the card (limited to 26 characters only, including spaces)
BIRTHDATE mm dd yy
TEL. NO.
RELATIONSHIP
SEX ☐ Male ☐ Female
Signature of Extension Cardholder 3
✓

FEES INFORMATION (subject to change upon prior notice)
ANNUAL FEES
Principal - P800.00 Extension - P400.00
No processing fee required. Please do not enclose payment.
Applicable fees will be billed upon approval of application.

YOUR SIGNATURE

All information given in this application form is true, correct and complete. By signing below, I/We authorize Bankard, Inc. to make any credit investigation to evaluate, validate or verify all information, including financial standing or employment. I/We understand that falsification and/or giving false information in this application, and/or supporting documents submitted, shall be grounds for the rejection of my/our application, immediate termination of my/our credit card privileges, and/or legal action against me/us. Bankard, Inc. shall have no obligation to provide the reason for rejection of the application. By signing at the back of the card/s, I/we accept the terms and conditions of membership, including any amendments thereto.

Applicant's Signature ✓ Date

FOR BANKARD USE ONLY

Reference No.
Processed By: Date
All information contained in this application is accurate as of printing date April 2003.

BALANCE TRANSFER MECHANICS

1. Your card balance from your other non-Bankard accounts may be transferred as PEP Installment or as a Straight or Regular charge to your new myDream JCB card.
2. Only Principal cardholders may apply for Balance Transfer
3. The Balance Transfer amount should not exceed the ending balance reflected in the existing/other card's Statement of Account.
4. Balance Transfer will be allowed from non-Bankard card accounts, provided these accounts are at least one (1) year old and in good credit standing in the last 12 months. Only Peso outstanding balances are accepted for Balance Transfer.
5. Balance Transfer to myDream JCB is allowed from a maximum of two (2) non-Bankard cards only.
6. The Balance Transfer Request shall be processed upon completion of this form and submission of the following documents
   - Latest three (3) months Statement of Account (SOA) from the other credit cards (ORIGINAL)
   - Statement of Account at least 12 months ago as proof that your account is at least one (1) year old (ORIGINAL)

YOUR BALANCE TRANSFER INFORMATION

I wish to apply for myDream JCB Balance Transfer. I would like to transfer the following amounts from my other credit cards to myDream JCB under its Balance Transfer Program. My personal data and instructions are as follows:

A. Card Company/Payee
Credit Card Number
Card Issue Date
Amount to be Transferred
Mode of Payment: Straight/Regular ☐ Installment ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 12 months ☐

B. Card Company/Payee
Credit Card Number
Card Issue Date
Amount to be Transferred
Mode of Payment: Straight/Regular ☐ Installment ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 12 months ☐

BALANCE TRANSFER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) Bankard holds absolute and exclusive right to approve or reject an application for Balance Transfer, or approve only a portion of the amount applied for, without any obligation to give reasons for such denial or partial approval.
2) Bankard will only transfer the amount you requested, as indicated on this request form, as long as it does not exceed the total amount due from the applicant's other credit cards and the approved credit limit of his myDream JCB card.
3) Bankard allows Balance Transfer from a maximum of two (2) cards. In such a case, the higher amount requested for balance transfer will be the first to be considered. If the higher balance approved for transfer does not exceed the applicant's myDream JCB card credit limit, Bankard may allow the transfer of a portion of the second balance equal to the remaining credit limit of the applicant's myDream JCB card.
4) A period of two (2) weeks shall be provided for Bankard to effect the Balance Transfer Request. Prior to this, the applicant must continue to pay the minimum amount due required by the other credit card company
5) Applicant acknowledges his/her liability to Bankard for any Balance Transfer Request that has been fulfilled and will form part of the applicant's liability to myDream JCB.
6) Upon approval of Balance Transfer Request, Bankard will send the check payment directly to the issuer of the applicant's other credit card. Receipt of payment by the other credit card company shall be deemed as receipt by the applicant himself.
7) Any penalties or charges incurred by the Balance Transfer applicant/cardholder resulting from non-payment of his minimum amount due to the other credit card company shall be for the cardholder's charge. Bankard shall be deemed free from any liability arising from penalties imposed by the other credit card company.
8) The Balance Transfer applicant/cardholder hereby warrants that all information given on this Balance Transfer Form are true and correct and that Bankard is authorized to investigate the information from whatever sources Bankard may consider appropriate.
9) In the event of delay in the payment/crediting of payment to the other credit card or rejection/non-acceptance of payment to the other credit card, the cardholder hereby holds Bankard free and blameless from the penalties to be imposed by the other credit card company.
10) Balance Transfer applicant/cardholder acknowledges that Bankard in its sole judgment may discontinue or cancel the Balance Transfer feature of the card at any time without prior notice and shall have no claim whatsoever against Bankard for the discontinuance or cancellation of the Balance Transfer feature of the card.

This Balance Transfer application is based on my instruction and has no implication on my relationship with any establishment or with any card issuer. If my Balance Transfer request is approved, this shall serve as my written irrevocable authorization to Bankard to initiate the payment of my obligation as specified above. By signing below, I agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions governing the use of myDream JCB card and the Terms and Conditions of the myDream JCB Balance Transfer Program and to pay the monthly installment required for the payment term I chose as well as the minimum monthly amount due on the remaining revolving portion of my outstanding balance with myDream JCB card.

✓
Cardholder's signature over printed name
Date of Balance Transfer Request

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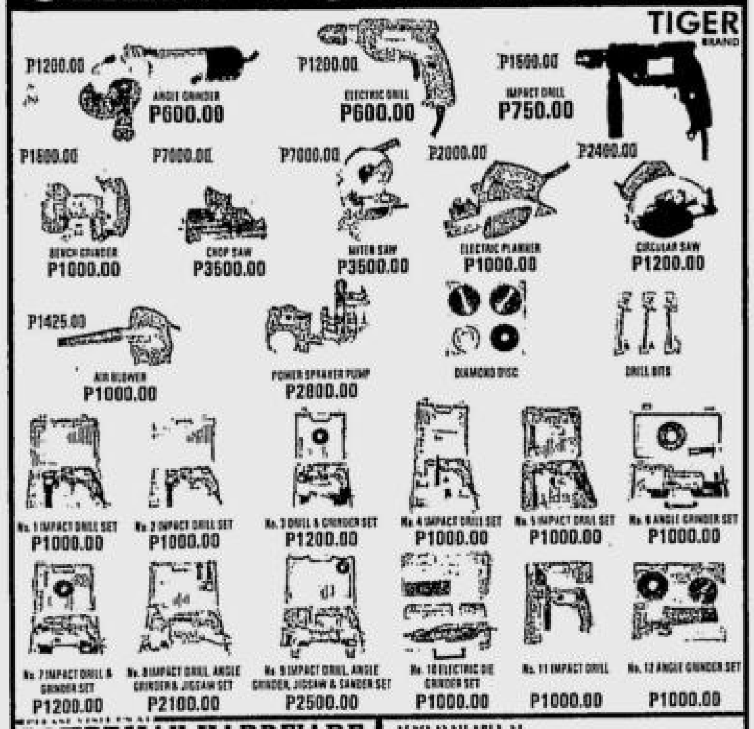

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BIR exec seeks TRO vs 'lifestyle check'

By Volt Contreras

THE FIRST GOVERNMENT official to face a formal investigation under the "lifestyle check" being conducted by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has defied a PAGC order asking him to explain his failure to declare ownership of two luxury vehicles.

Antonio Montemayor, a Director II at the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Regional Office No.4, instead went to the Court of Appeals to question the PAGC's authority and have the probe stopped, the INQUIRER learned from the PAGC yesterday.

Last May 19, PAGC Chair Dario Rama ordered Montemayor to explain within 10 days his failure to disclose ownership of a 1997 Toyota Land Cruiser and a 2001 Ford Expedition in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities for 2001 and 2002.

Rama then told the INQUIRER in an interview that the value of the two vehicles, estimated at P3 million, "appears to be disproportionate" to a Director II's salary and allowances which add up to only about P30,000 a month.

Assisted by four private counsels, Montemayor filed last Monday a petition asking the CA to issue a temporary restraining order on the PCGC inquiry and to declare Rama's May 19 order null and void.

The petition challenged PAGC's jurisdiction over Montemayor, saying the 1987 Constitution gave only to the Ombudsman the power to investigate and lodge complaints against erring public officials.

Executive Order No. 12, which President Macapagal issued in April 2001 to create the PAGC, "cannot duplicate" the Ombudsman's authority, the petition argued.

But Rama, in an interview yesterday, countered that the Constitution also bestows upon the President "control of all executive departments, agencies, bureaus and offices."

"This control includes the power to supervise and discipline officials (in the executive branch) and part of instilling discipline is the power to investigate," he explained.

The PAGC chair noted that, since he assumed the post in February 2002, Montemayor is only the second public official facing investigation by the PAGC to challenge the agency's authority. The first was then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

The PAGC is tasked to conduct administrative proceedings against presidential appointees suspected of graft and corruption. Rama said the commission has filed close to 600 cases since he assumed the chairmanship.

Thirteen more BIR officials, he said, are currently under investigation in connection with the PAGC's lifestyle check initiative which was launched last year.

SC asked: Cite Dante Ang for contempt

By Philip C. Tubeza

A LAWYER yesterday asked the Supreme Court to cite presidential associate Dante Ang for indirect contempt for branding judges as "terrorists in robes."

Ang, the former publicist of President Macapagal-Arroyo, made the accusation against the judiciary before a monthly meeting of the Philippine Constitutional Association on May 27, 2003.

"In those statements, copies of which were distributed by respondent Ang, he unabashedly called the Justices of this Honorable Court and all the magistrates who have a hand in the administration of justice in this country as 'terrorist in robes' whose decisions are marked by considerations of money, influence and relationships," said Mauricio in his 15-page petition.

Mauricio said Ang, whom he claimed was a Chinese citizen, should be cited for contempt particularly for criticizing the SC ruling that nullified the contract between the government and Piatco on the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 3.

'Dodong' to bring more rains

TROPICAL STORM "Dodong" continues to move farther away from the country but will continue to induce the southwest monsoon and bring rains to the western sections of Luzon, including Palawan

At 10 a.m. yesterday, the center of tropical storm Dodong was estimated at 460 km northeast of Basco, Batanes with strongest sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness up to 129 kph. It is moving east northeast at 19 kph.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said "Dodong" was forecast to be at 840 km northeast of Basco, Batanes or 290 km southeast of Okinawa, Japan this morning.

Public storm warning Signal No. 1 is in effect over the Batanes group of islands. These areas experienced rains and winds of not more than 60 kph yesterday.

Pagasa said "Dodong" will continue to induce monsoon rains over the western section of Luzon including Palawan. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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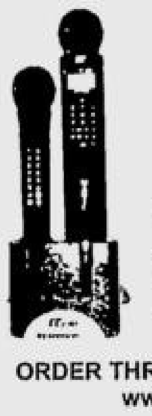

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DOJ on US judge: What inconsistent evidence?

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHAT conflicting evidence?

This was the reaction yesterday of the Department of Justice to a US federal court's comment that the Philippines' evidence in Rod Lauren Strunk's extradition case was conflicting.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said there could not have been conflicting evidence since the Philippines has yet to submit the evidence in the case.

Strunk is wanted in the Philippines for the brutal killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca, on November 2001.

"I really don't know where that comment came from? We have not presented the evidence to US authorities about Mr. Strunk. We will submit it with the formal request of extradition," Gutierrez said.

"I really doubt if those statements were made by the judge. In the first place, when we asked for Strunk's provisional arrest, we only mentioned the existence of the warrant of arrest issued by the Philippine court, the facts of the case, and the legal provisions involved," she added.

On May 30, US Federal Magistrate Gregory Hollows rejected Strunk's request to be released on bail, saying that he was a "flight risk."

Strunk, 63, will thus remain in the Sacramento jail while awaiting a July 28 extradition treaty.

But Hollows also said in his 11-page decision that there were conflicting testimony in the case, which could become a serious obstacle to efforts by the Philippine government to get Strunk to face the murder charges.

Hollows, who will preside over the extradition hearing, wrote that he had "present and significant doubts" about some of the evidence against Strunk.

He cited conflicting statements among a handful of witnesses who placed Strunk at the scene of the crime, and others who saw him at the same time at the Quezon City home he shared with Blanca, 65.

The judge said introduction of any more "inconsistent evidence" could put the "competency of the government's evidence ... beyond rescue."

"If those were the comments, those were made during the bail hearing. The issue there was the bail and not the (murder) case here (in the country)," she said.

Gutierrez said the court, during the bail hearing, was just trying to determine if Strunk was a bail risk.

She said the evidence in the case and the formal request for an extradition would be submitted in the "next two to three weeks."

"We have 60 days but we are hurrying this up. We will not utilize the whole period," Gutierrez said.

The Philippines has 60 days to submit its evidence from the time of Strunk's arrest in Tracy, California, last May 13.

STRUNK

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EDITORIALS

Push for peace

UNITED States President George Bush will meet today with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in the Jordanian city of Aqaba in order to take a more direct and personal role in pushing for Middle East peace. The prospect is cautious but bright: an end to 30 months of almost unrelenting violence in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and most important, an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The prospect is cautious but bright because the protagonists have offered encouraging measures to build up the confidence of each other. Instead of ramming its tanks into Palestinian communities in pursuit of alleged terrorists, Israel has lifted restrictions and allowed about 25,000 Palestinians with work permits to return to their jobs in Israel. Instead of fomenting suicide attacks on buses in Israel, the new Palestine authorities have promised to secure the areas to minimize the possibility of more suicide attacks.

The signs are hopeful not only because the two sides are coming together with some prodding from the United States, but also because the so-called road map to peace is sound enough to be credible, and broad enough to accommodate differences, at least for now. The map has been drafted by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations, its democratic character somehow ensuring that the disparate interests of the two protagonists, with their share of allies and partisans, would be protected and upheld.

The road map proposes an independent Palestinian state with "provisional borders" to be created by the end of the year. By 2005, the state would come into being and be expected to live side by side with Israel, which would have by then its own peace deals with the other Arab states.

The map is convincing inasmuch as its first phase is already under way. It involves the Palestinians reforming their own leadership and cracking down on terrorism (thus, the replacement of the increasingly isolated Yasser Arafat by Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen). It also involves the Israelis withdrawing their troops from Palestinian cities, ceasing to build new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and dismantling those built since March 2001.

Welcome

THE PEACE talks are welcome because they may yet fly in the face of prognostications that the Iraq war would further engulf the Middle East in conflict, harden antipodal positions, and make the prospects for peace even more remote. If at all, the apparent end of the war seems to have given a new impetus for peace and steeled the resolve of the protagonists on either divide to press for peace in order to prevent another continent-wide conflagration.

The end of the war has also somehow afforded an occasion for the discursive combatants in the war against Iraq—the United States, Europe, Russia and the United Nations—for a rapprochement by coming together on a hot spot that has rankled and triggered a host of wars and violent incidents.

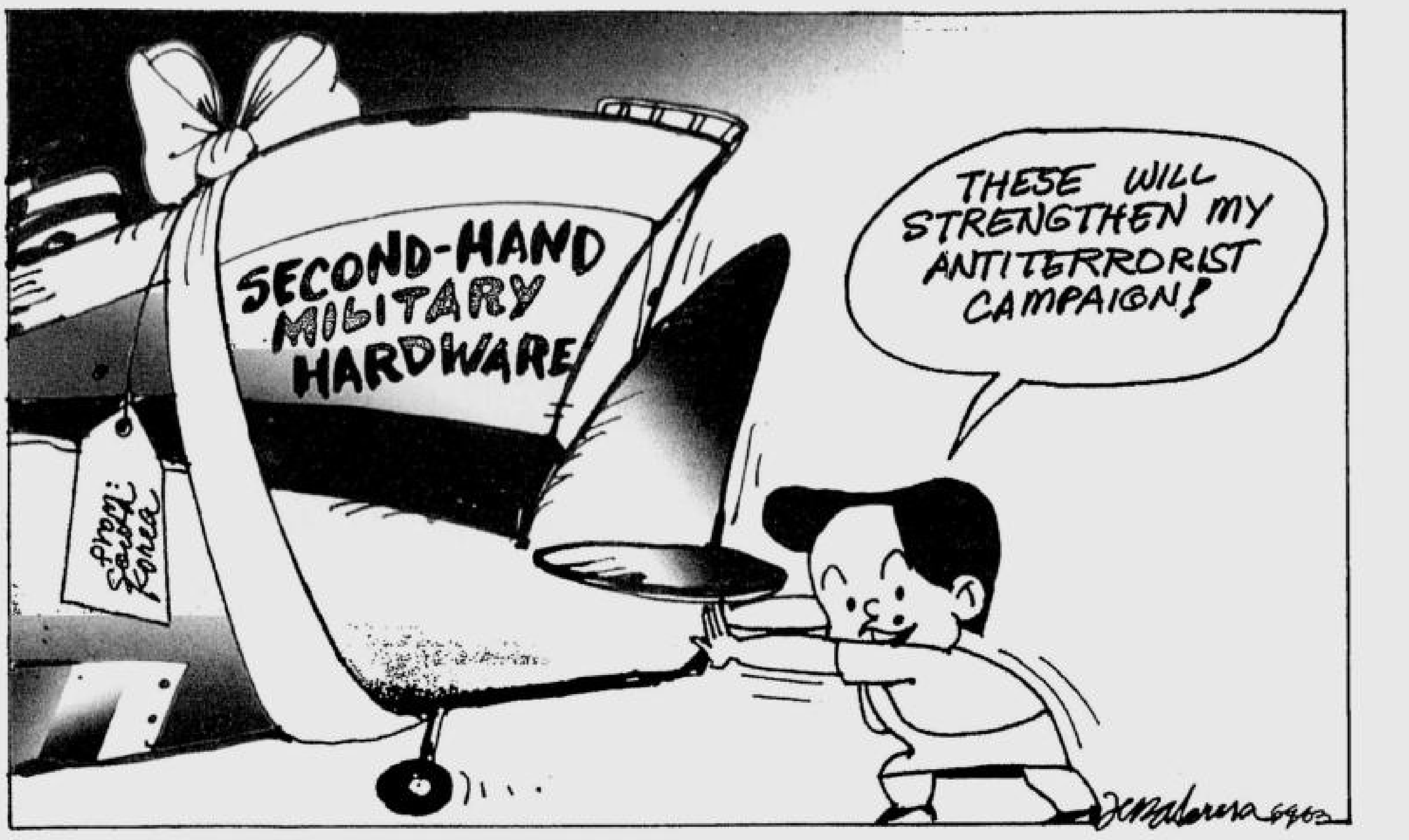
Despite the improved prospects for peace, there must be no complacency. Hardliners on either divide can spoil the inching steps toward a resolution and set peace a mile back. Abbas, who has won the support of his people and the high regard of the West for his moderation and his unswerving condemnation of terrorism, is an easy target for the extremism of Hamas and other radical Palestinians.

Abbas, for one, has to fulfill his end of the bargain based on phase one of the road map by reining in the militants and stopping terrorism. He has simply refused to make a blanket commitment while promising to tighten the security in order to minimize the possibility of further bombings and terrorist attacks.

Because he is more entrenched as a leader, Sharon is in a position to deliver the goods. A hardliner, he has surprised the right wing of his Likud party by disavowing occupation and signaling the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories. In a dramatic statement, he said it would be both wrong and bad for Israel "to keep holding three and a half million Palestinians under occupation, because that's what it is, it's occupation." His use of the word "occupation" is a most encouraging sign.

Can Sharon be overruled by the right wing of his party? He is as right-wing as right-wing can be, so nobody, as a matter of speaking, could out-right him. Moreover, he enjoys popular support. A newspaper survey showed 62 percent agreeing that the "occupation of the territories" should end.

Indeed, the march on the road to peace has begun.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GSIS contract with private company scuttled

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

GOOD news: The contract between GSIS Family Bank, a subsidiary of the Government Service Insurance System, and FCA Card Solution Network, a small private computer company with a paid-up capital of P62,600 and incorporated only last January 2002, for an eCard project (which was the subject of our column last Friday) will not push through. Instead, the project will be bidded out to three government depository banks: Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank and Philippine National Bank. Which was what should have been done in the first place.

I had written that if the contract is consummated, it would be another scam, as the government would lose from P100 million to P150 million a year or P500 million to P750 million in the five-year life of the contract. That amount would come from the service fees to be paid by the 1.5 million GSIS members, which is one percent of the amount borrowed under the new system. At P100 for every P10,000 cash advance, that would already be P100 million if only two-thirds of the members take advantage of the cash advances. That is only for starters.

Proceeds from housing loans, salary and policy loans are much bigger and their service fees are therefore much bigger. These service fees are at present being paid to the GSIS. The contract, if it were consummated, would go to FCA Card Solution Network. The GSIS, and therefore GSIS members, would lose hundreds of millions of pesos in revenues. Thus, the contract would be grossly disadvantageous to the government and would make the signatories to the contract liable for charges of graft.

Fortunately, the GSIS recognized this pitfall in time and the Ombudsman has been spared the job of prosecuting a number of people involved with the contract. The contract will be scuttled permanently, so the budding scam was aborted.

In a letter to this writer, Mer Nilo Racimo, vice president for public affairs of the GSIS, said the contract "has not been perfected." There is therefore still no consummated contract to speak of.

Racimo also said:

- "The GSIS is not spending a single centavo for the project. The supply of the eCard will indeed be at no cost to the GSIS."

COMMENT: I didn't dispute that. I said the cost will come from the P100 million to P150 million in service fees that would go to the private company instead of to the GSIS which is collecting that now. And in a supreme insult, the GSIS Family Bank, which would be the conduit of the eCard system and which holds the licensing agreement for a computer system with Infoserve, whose licensing agreement would be transferred to FCA, will not get a single centavo of the service fee. And yet the bank, which is under rehabilitation, needs all the help it can get.

- "Mr. Benigno Zialcita was not reelected as president of the GSIS Family Bank (GFB) because of his lackluster performance. He failed to meet the expectations under the GSIS rehabilitation plan for the GFB. The GSIS infused P2.5 billion into GFB in 1988. The financial condition of the bank did not improve under Zialcita's term. When he left, GFB's net assets stood at only P800 million, losing almost P200 million."

COMMENT: The financial statements of GFB showed that during Zialcita's term, GFB made modest profits until the rug was pulled from under it. Do the expectations that Zialcita allegedly failed to meet include loyalty to Garcia?

On the other hand, what are the qualifications of the person who would succeed to the presidency of the bank? I understand he has no experience in banking. But is his principal qualification his loyalty to Garcia?

Racimo also said that Ambassador Sanchez Ali, chair of the GFB board, recommended a reconsideration of the GSIS decision scuttling the project, and also expressed appreciation for Garcia's "vision and effort to rehabilitate the GFB."

COMMENT: No wonder Ali was not fired outright like Zialcita and board member Carmelo Royeca. Garcia turned down the recommendation, Racimo said.

"The allegations and insinuations implicating the GSIS in a scam are therefore not only false but libelous," Racimo concluded.

COMMENT: It is not. It is factually based on an official letter to the President of the Philippines by the president of the bank, reporting on what is happening in the government bank as part of his official duties. Besides, nobody said a scam has already been perpetrated. It said it is a "budding scam." It would be a scam only when the contract is perfected. Now that the contract has been scuttled, no crime has been committed—yet. Which saves the Ombudsman more work.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: A Singaporean has concocted a cure for SARS. Boil one frog, one mouse, three lizards with the bark and roots of a kalachuchi tree, and drink a glass of the resulting tea every two hours. He said it worked for him—*nawala ang SARS niya, LBM na lang.*

* * *

Reminder to Philets alumni: Don't forget the grand reunion on June 14 at the Quezon City Sports Club. Jubilarians who fail to appear in person won't get their gold bars.

Two things

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE wrote a letter in the e-mail to ask a question that's been asked by other readers before. It's all very well to criticize the government, she says, but, "What would you do if you were in a position to do something for the country?"

Well, to begin with, I am in a position to do something for the country, and I have been trying as best I can to do so. Everyone is in a position to do something for the country, whether he is a janitor or businessman, electrician or teacher, housewife or journalist, and he should do so. It's a monumental fallacy to think only government officials are in a position to do something for the country. I would think Nick Joaquin has done more for this country than all the members of the Cabinet combined. But I won't go into that.

I won't go as well into this other business of thinking criticism is negative and praise positive. I've written about that a number of times. Suffice it to say that that is an even bigger fallacy. There's nothing positive about turning a blind eye to perfidy, or worse, looking at the bright side of corruption. I leave that to Dante Ang, or to his current nemesis in Malacañang, the fellow he calls "Viaje." And there's nothing negative about ripping the corrupt and ungodly to pieces, or turning them into objects of hilarity since turning them into objects of scorn no longer seems to work. I leave that to me and kindred souls.

I'll take my reader's question head-on instead. I am not likely to ever find my way in the position of power she means, but I can always plug for the things I deem important. Two things I deem so, which I hope the next president of this country (I do not know who he will be, I only know who she will not be) will make top priority. They are a full agenda by themselves. They cover the past, present and future of this country.

The first is food security.

Only recently, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. drew attention again to the alarming state of our agriculture, something the Philippine Peasants Institute has been warning about over the last decade or so. The farming population has plunged to record lows. Many farmers are now past retirement age, at 65 to 68, and the younger generation isn't stepping in. The area planted to rice and corn has shrunk dramatically, most farmers' children preferring to sell carabao and farm implements, if not their small plots of land, for a crack at Saudi.

That is scary, and globalization raises fears more than appeases them. The problem of food cannot always be solved by importation, on which we now repose our deepest faith. The most powerful countries in the world, which are in a position to dictate the terms of world trade, will not allow themselves to be put at the mercy of other countries where food is concerned. As Walden Bello and others have pointed out, the United States, Europe and Japan heavily subsidize their agricultural production. That area of economic activity is by no means governed by market forces, globalization notwithstanding. If it is governed by anything, it is by socialism. Quite simply, food security in those countries is non-negotiable.

Why we should do any less is beyond rational thought. Our blind faith in the world market, which is expected to supply us more cheaply with the things we need, including food, is just that, blind. That is the other thing, apart from love of country, other Southeast Asian countries have that we do not: cheap food. You can buy a heaping bowl of steaming mami in Bangkok for P30. No wonder that place has left us biting the dust. It's even cheaper in the Indochinese countries.

Subsidize food production, possibly even more heavily than the developed countries. That is the first order of the day.

That takes care of the present. What takes care of the past and future is the second thing: education.

History in particular should take care of the past. I've said my piece here a number of times too. It's the one thing that should be emphasized, particularly in elementary school, which is where a great deal of values and attitudes are formed. We will never develop any sense of country, quite apart from love of it, unless we know where we came from. We won't know where we are going either—Rizal was absolutely right about that—to go by where we are now. Teach the kids what happened during the Spanish, American and Japanese occupations. Teach the kids what happened during martial law. In fact, teach the kids what happened yesterday. They don't have a past, they won't have a future.

The usual sciences and arts should prepare them for the future. I myself wouldn't discriminate against the arts in favor of the sciences. The first tells you how to do things, the second why. This country being more confused about the why than the how, we'd be fools to neglect the ethical or humanizing part of education.

This one we ought to subsidize even more. Lidy Nacpil's letter to the editor last week should be cause for alarm, too. You want the figures, read the letter. One sobering statistic there is that government expense per student has effectively fallen from P510 to P134 from 1990 to 1997. I have said it before and I say it again: I wouldn't mind seeing the budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines reduced to P1 and the remainder used to subsidize food production and education.

That's all we need to do really. The rest—particularly all that business about fighting terrorism—isn't just gravy, it's a rip-off. They just divert attention and resources from the things that are vital to us. That's what the Filipino dream is all about in the end—food for the body and food for the soul.

The first we need in modest quantity, the second in extravagant one.

Bush makes debut in peacemaking

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stephen Collinson

EVIAN, France—US President George W. Bush said Monday he was confident that progress could be made in the Middle East peace process but acknowledged the difficulty of his mission as he prepared for landmark summits in the region.

"I think we'll make some progress, I know we'll make some progress," Bush said as he met French President Jacques Chirac on the sidelines of a G8 summit for their first one-on-one talks since their row over the Iraq war.

Bush said he would call on the parties to the conflict to meet their "responsibilities to achieve peace," vowing to put in as much time as needed to reach a settlement and "achieve the vision of two states living side by side."

"I fully understand this is going to be a difficult process," Bush admitted.

The US president was loath to enter the political minefield of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during his first two and a half years in the White House, but makes his debut as a peace broker with twin summits in Egypt and Jordan. He was gathering Arab leaders in Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday for the first time since deposing Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

The next day in Aqaba, Jordan, Bush will bring Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas together, hoping to make progress toward ending 32 months of murderous violence.

"All concerned must shake off the old arguments and the old ways and act in the cause of peace," Bush said in a keynote speech launching his week-long Europe and Middle East tour in Poland on Friday.

Bush will be seeking concrete commitments to the peace road map drawn up by a quartet grouping the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

The map sets out steps to end violence, revive political talks and create a Palestinian state next to a secure Israel by 2005.

> Bush will be embarking on a road of Middle East peacemaking strewn with the wreckage of previous US presidential initiatives

Chirac offered Bush his "very sincere wishes for success" in his efforts to resolve the crisis, but skepticism in Europe over Bush's approach to the Middle-East will hardly be eased by his brief stay at the G8 summit in Evian.

In a veiled criticism of perceived US unilateralism, Chirac's spokesperson said ahead of his talks with Bush that the US leader would need help to broker peace, calling Bush's trip "a first step, there will be plenty of others."

"Getting the international community to work together on the same basis was one of the quartet's great achievements," she added, "and it is without doubt the best way."

Some Europeans are skeptical that Bush will pressure Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, as with his reelection battle looming next year he will be unlikely to alienate core political support among Christian conservative voters who are staunch supporters of Israel. They are also suspicious that the Bush administration intends to remake the Middle East in its own democratic image.

Some media commentators, particularly in Britain, have suggested that Bush only embarked on his mission as a favor to Prime Minister Tony Blair who stuck his political neck out to support the Iraq war.

"I hope someone is holding up their columns to their face and saying 'would you care to revise your previous analysis,'" said a senior administration official before leaving Washington for Bush's trip.

US officials say they believe there is now a "window" for stemming the bloodshed in the Middle East, while cautioning that major developments should not be expected from the summits.

Bush will be embarking on a road of Middle East peacemaking strewn with the wreckage of previous US presidential initiatives.

Early in his tenure, administration officials privately blamed former President Bill Clinton for indirectly igniting the second Palestinian intifada after his desperate push for peace at Camp David in July 2000 failed.

Like his son a decade later, former president George Bush believed the moment was ripe after defeating Iraq to push for Israeli-Palestinian peace—in his case after ejecting Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait in 1991.

That process resulted in the Oslo Accords, signed when then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn.

Arafat has since been rejected as irrelevant to Middle East peace efforts by Bush, who will use this week's summits to bolster Abbas. *AFP*

Costs of staying at home

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SAN FRANCISCO—Before starting my fellowship with the International Family Planning Leadership Program, I stayed for two days with my friend Maloy Ramos Barairo, her husband Vic and her precocious 4-year-old son Vince.

Married in her early 40s and a first-time mother soon after, Maloy is neck-deep in the minutiae and stress of mothering a preschool-age son even as we, her friends from back home, are worrying about our adult children's jobs and prospective in-laws. Throw in the fact that my friend started out on the road to motherhood here, with scant help from a family support system or ready and affordable childcare, and you can understand why her parenting stories sounded to me like a telenovela on hyperdrive.

"I can't wait for him to grow old enough for public school!" Maloy exclaimed, explaining how Vince's private preschool, excellent though it is, eats up a substantial chunk of their income: around $500 a month. The BART or Bay Area Rapid Transit has suddenly become a crucial factor in their family life, since any delay along the line could translate into a delay in fetching Vince from his school, for which they are penalized $10 for the first 10 minutes and $1 for every minute thereafter. Thus, the commute home turns into a strained race for the spouses, one where they're constantly checking on each other's progress to see who could get to their son's school first.

A public relations executive before she chucked her career in Manila in pursuit of marriage and family, Maloy had always assumed that when her turn at motherhood came, she would be treading the same path we, her friends, had followed, combining work and family, allocating scarce resources, especially time, among the competing demands of children, spouse, boss, friends, community and, of course, self.

* * *

BUT she is attempting this high-wire balancing act in the United States, which means in essence that she is attempting to stay the course without a safety net.

Maloy and many women like her struggling to reconcile competing roles have to continuously weigh the payoffs between staying home to look after one's child and kissing a paycheck goodbye, or taking a job outside the home for rewards that go beyond just a paycheck while having to cope with the consequent stresses and strains of a multi-tasked life.

Two articles in "MSN Money," a website devoted to financial advice, present two approaches to the dilemma of "working motherhood."

In the first, Liz Pulliam Weston examines the economic value of housework, or what a full-time "homemaker" is worth. "If it were up to me, the job of stay-at-home parent would come with retirement and health benefits, annual paid vacations and an award ceremony each spring to rival the Oscars," Pulliam Weston writes. But the reality, she says, is that "we're stuck with the economic system we've got, and it does not work in favor of unpaid domestics."

Some experts have attempted to put high economic value on the work done by spouses (mostly women) who decided to stay home and look after the kids. Typically, says Pulliam Weston, the estimates are based on the US government's average pay figures for all the occupations that a single homemaker pursues: child-care worker, maid, food preparation supervisor, bookkeeper and chauffeur, to name a few. Take the hourly wages, figure out how many hours, on average, a homemaker performs each task, multiply these by the appropriate wage, and the experts come up with what she calls "an impressive and completely overblown annual figure."

* * *

IN THE REAL world, however, Pulliam Weston says "the economists who make these calculations—for wrongful death suits, airplane crash settlements and insurance purposes—recognize that while homemaking has economic value, it's nowhere near the six-figure range."

In the first place, many homemakers don't have the skills of, say, a professional bookkeeper, a licensed chauffeur or a recreational director. In the second, "families who lose a stay-at-home spouse typically do not rush out to hire 17 professionals to take his or her place, let alone employ them 24/7. They may hire one or two people, usually for 50 hours a week or less, and pay them an hourly wage of $10 to $15."

That's why, says Pulliam Weston, the economic payout is typically less in wrongful death and other lawsuits when the victim is a stay-at-home spouse than when the victim is employed. "The lifetime economic value of a female homemaker who dies at age 30 is currently about $300,000," Pulliam Weston points out, comparing that "to a 30-year-old who makes the average white-collar wage...(so that) the value of her lost after-tax compensation, using conservative assumptions, likely exceeds $1 million."

* * *

THIS is the reason, says Pulliam Weston, why it's very difficult in the United States to buy life or disability insurance on a stay-at-home spouse. "Life insurers don't want you taking out policies that have no economic basis," she explains, the theory being that "it becomes way too tempting to snuff an overinsured spouse."

There are other significant costs to being a homemaker, notes Pulliam Weston.

First, employment prospects decline. "Your job skills become dated by the day, making it harder for you to reenter the working world." Second, retirement savings stagnate. "If you're at home, you're also not contributing to a workplace retirement plan or earning credit toward a pension plan or Social Security. That leaves you economically vulnerable if you ever divorce." Thus, the third cost: economic vulnerability increases. "Two-income families also have a built-in safety net should they encounter layoffs or other economic setbacks."

Death—accidental and otherwise

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

HOW do young people these days learn about sex and reproduction outside of biology class?

My sister still blushes when she relates how, 20 years ago, she found "The Joy of Sex," covered in immaculate white paper, hidden deep in the night table of my parents' bedroom. I was not as lucky, although I knew about anatomy long before I saw pornography because my aunt left all her medical textbooks in our home. The pictures in those thick, dark books gave me a graphic look at all known diseases. Naturally, the venereal ones scared me into chastity to this day.

With this kind of background, I thought I was prepared for the 1934 textbook "Legal Medicine" by Dr. Sixto de los Angeles, but the book and its pictures were so distressing I had nightmares two nights in a row after reading it.

One dream had me in Fort Santiago preparing to face a firing squad. I was dressed in black, Spanish was spoken, and (pardon the presumption) there was a signature bowler hat on my table. While Rizal had a steady pulse shortly before his execution, I was shaking uncontrollably and explained it away as Parkinson's disease. Like a British monarch whose head rolled centuries before, I explained that my trembling was due to the cold, not fear. But terror it was that I felt—not of dying but of pain before death. What if the fatal bullet missed its mark? I would have to be shot a second time! We all know that in the Philippines if anything can go wrong, it probably will.

Capital punishment over the centuries has changed and improved to ensure that the victim feels very little pain. I thought the garrote, the guillotine, the electric chair and now lethal injection, were humane methods of execution until I read De los Angeles' description of an execution:

"The condemned is strapped to the chair with large leather belts and buckles. A brass band is strapped around his right ankle and a wire cap, insulated with a moistened cloth pad, is placed over his head. The brass band is connected to the positive pole while a wire from the cap leads to the negative pole. When the switch is turned on, the fatal electric current [from 1,300 to 2,000 volts] traverses the whole body and produces a rapid death."

De los Angeles considered this method of execution, "efficient, rapid and painless when properly performed." But then on Sept. 26, 1925, Prisoner No. 19543-P was electrocuted thrice! De los Angeles stated, "It was observed, however, that the impairment of the cerebral function was more instantaneous or relatively more immediate; hence the inference that such a method of execution is painless." But nobody has survived the electric chair to validate this.

Two hours and 50 minutes later an autopsy was done. Part of the report reads:

"Marked post-mortem rigidity was present and no complete hypostatic lividity had yet appeared. Due to this markedly strong contraction of all muscles, the head was firmly thrown backwards, the neck was apparently shortened, the shoulders raised, the hands semi-clenched and the toes extended. The skin surrounding the eyes and the mouth were slightly corrugated due to the same excessive strong contraction of the circular muscles of the said regions, giving the face of the deceased an expression of agony or pain. The whole body was livid, especially the face and the tips of the fingers. The surfaces of the eyeballs were opaque and were covered with a moderately thick layer of a whitish turbid material..."

I'm glad the electric chair is a thing of the past. Surely, a report on lethal injection will read the same way and horrify the sane in us to rethink the death penalty.

De los Angeles provided statistics, a summary of cases in Manila that required examination by the UP Department of Legal Medicine 1925-1931. Deaths were grouped into accidental and homicidal and the causes were listed as follows:

Accidental death: traffic (car, train, truck, carromata), 299; drowning, 210; burning, 97; falling from a height, 65; infected wounds and tetanus, 43; poisoning, 24; abortion and stillbirth, 25; electric shock, 24; bitten, horned, kicked by animals, 18; cerebral hemorrhage, 57; struck by falling objects, 9; firearms, 6; explosives, 3; suffocation, 4; lightning, 3; lacerated wounds, 10; foreign body esophagus, 2; ruptured liver and other organs, 19; crushed by machinery, 1; boat collision, 2; nephritis, 1; crushed in elevator, 1; fractures (violent causes), 74; and stab wound, 1. Death in homicidal cases: sharp cutting instruments, 125; firearms, 29; blunt instruments, 33; poisoning, 7; abortion, 9; strangulation, 3; infanticide, 11; suffocation, 1.

The yearly distribution by sex of total suicide cases: poisoning—26 Male, 13 Female; cutting instruments—16M, 6F; hanging—15M, 7F; firearms—5M, 2F; drowning—15M, 7F; jumping from height—3M, 0F; run over by train—2M, 0F. This disproves the widely held notion that women are more prone to suicide than men. The highest number of suicides were recorded in 1931, and the lowest in 1926. The highest suicide month, on average was April, and lowest, December. Most males preferred to die in April, women in February. The age bracket for most suicides was 21 to 30 years old. There were no cases for 61 to 68 years and 71 to 77 years. But there were isolated cases of suicide at age 78, 85 and 104.

De los Angeles provides data to discern patterns that can help us avoid crime in the present.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A vehicle for social transformation

COMMENTARY

Nandy Pacheco

IT is easy for us to sit back and blame others for the problems of our country. But we cannot put all the blame on the *trapos* for we were the ones who put them in office in the first place. It is not enough to look for the symptoms, we must look for the root cause of the problem.

As a people we have failed to see the connection between the problems we have and the way we live, think and act. The real problem is that we have lost our vision, our sense of purpose. Our tragedy today is due basically to human will opposing divine will.

The Catholic bishops hit the nail on the head when they said in their 1997 Pastoral Letter on Philippine Politics: "Philippine politics—the way it is practiced—has been most hurtful of us as a people. It is possibly the biggest bane in our life as a nation and the most pernicious obstacle to our achieving full development... If we are what we are today, a country of poor and powerless people, one reason is the way we have allowed politics to be debased and prostituted to the low level it is in now."

It does not have to be like this. There is a way out of the darkness. Where and how do we begin?

First, we have to acknowledge that the root cause of our problems is moral. Second, we have to admit our share of guilt for the sad state of affairs, either directly or indirectly, or by commission or by omission. Third, we have to realize that politics, being a human activity, has a moral dimension. And fourth, we have to make a personal decision to change and to do something.

It was against this background that Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan was organized and launched on Aug. 19, 2002.

With Common Good as its ideology, Kapatiran is a community-based national political movement committed to translate into reality a government of the people, for the people and by the people; to make politics an effective means for the integral development or the total well-being of all rather than a tool for the advancement of a privileged few; to prove that politics, far from being a distraction from the spiritual, is a medium through which we can love our neighbors, promote justice, peace, human rights and the common good; and to be a vehicle for social transformation.

Kapatiran has two ways of dealing with our political problems. One is through education which will be implemented by Kapatiran as a movement, and the other is through political action which will be undertaken by Kapatiran as a political party.

Because Kapatiran believes in doing first things first, it gives the education component a higher priority. The objectives of the education component are: (1) to promote responsible citizenship through character building (including good manners and right conduct); (2) values formation based on such universal principles as sanctity of life and dignity of the human person, call to family, community and participation, rights and responsibilities, option for the poor and vulnerable, dignity of work and rights of workers, peace and active non-violence, solidarity and care for God's creation; (3) to promote a consistent ethic of life; and (4) to provide basic political education. What Kapatiran seeks to produce are a responsible and enlightened citizenry and servant-leaders who can seek political posts.

The political component, which will be implemented by a political party which is in the process of being formed under the name of Kapatiran for the Common Good, has the following objectives: (1) to be a responsible and accountable political party with a national platform embracing specific policy objectives and concerns that promote the common good; (2) to introduce a new kind of politics focused more on moral principles than political expediency, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the interests of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests, more on the culture of life than the culture of death and violence; and (3) to field candidates who are morally qualified, equipped with the necessary academic qualifications and experience and committed to the party's platform.

Kapatiran's founders have come up with a platform containing specific policy objectives promoting the common good. Kapatiran will work to achieve these objectives, because its candidates will all be committed to one platform.

In Kapatiran, we will see a responsible and accountable political party in action. We will hear "members of a national orchestra" playing harmoniously because they have one theme: the common good. Kapatiran candidates will campaign not for themselves but for the party's platform. Pursuing a personal agenda is anathema. They will do away with the politics of personality and patronage, of deceit and immoral compromises, of guns, goons and gold.

Since its launch, Kapatiran as a movement has received strong endorsements from different sectors. In endorsing Kapatiran, Jaime Cardinal Sin described it as "a group of concerned Catholic laity who wanted to contribute to social transformation by raising the political awareness and maturity of our people." He added: "I have always believed that it is about time for our lay faithful to be more actively involved in socio-political affairs."

Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, called the movement's intentions "not only noble but sacred." He told Kapatiran in a letter: "Do not give up. Continue, continue, continue."

Archbishop Fernando R. Capalla of Davao said: "I congratulate you for establishing Kapatiran as your response to the PCP-II and CBCP appeals to clean our politics."

Kapatiran has been going around the country and delivering the "good news." Its mission is not impossible. Anybody, regardless of religion and economic and social status in life, who wants to reform and to promote the common good, who is fed up with the dirty politics that we have, and who believes in the principles, values and objectives of Kapatiran, is invited to join the movement. Priests, nuns, members of religious organizations and non-partisan non-government organizations like the PPCRV, Vote Care and Namfrel can join the movement, but not the political party.

Nandy Pacheco is founding president of Kapatiran.

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Safety of Bt corn remains untested

I WOULD like to correct the inaccuracies in the paid advertisement that appeared in the INQUIRER last May 26.

What is Bt corn? It is not a protein that was incorporated into Bt corn, as the ad claims, but a gene that encodes for a pesticide. The Bt-gene is hereditary as well as contagious through cross-pollination. The Bt biopesticide is a toxin (i.e., a poison) as well as a protein. Search www.yahoo.com for both "Bt toxin" and "Bt protein" and one will find four times more hits for "toxin" than "protein."

What is Bt? It is not true that natural Bt biopesticide poses no health risk. A commercial Bt brand (Halt) currently on the market says: "Avoid contact and inhalation of spray mist... Avoid contamination of any water supply with this product."

Bt may be safer than broad spectrum chemical pesticides, but it is by no means safe. The industry deceives the public about the safety of its chemical pesticides, about the safety of its biopesticides and about the safety of its GMOs.

Why was Bt corn developed? It is not true that Bt corn is only an effective means to control the corn borer aside from chemical pesticides. There are many ways to control the corn borer: use of corn borer-tolerant varieties, available from private breeders; use of natural enemies like trichogramma or biopesticides like the Bt bacterium; detasselling; proper timing of planting; diversification; etc.

In truth, Bt corn was developed so that Monsanto Corp. may gradually control our corn seed supply. Widespread Bt corn contamination will also create a huge business in genetic testing and earn royalties for Monsanto.

How widely used is Bt corn now? Bt corn is used widely in only three countries: the United States, Argentina and Canada. The Argentinian economy is now in deep trouble. Canada has scaled down Bt corn use. The American Corn Growers Association now regrets its use of Bt corn because of the troubles it caused American corn farmers. Other American farmers continue to use Bt corn because their market losses are subsidized by the government.

How safe is Bt corn? "Substantial equivalence" is an unscientific concept that assumes that GMOs are safe unless proven otherwise. The only way to prove safety is feeding tests. All our natural foods underwent thousands of years of feeding tests. Any new substance like the Bt toxin we intend to put inside our bodies must undergo clinical tests to prove them safe. This means controlled animal feeding tests, followed by feeding tests on human volunteers. Very few Bt corn animal tests have been done, and no human feeding tests at all. Of the various GM foods, only soya has undergone a feeding test on human volunteers, and this single-meal feeding test immediately raised concerns about the transfer of DNA sequences into bacteria in the human gut.

We challenge the pro-GMO scientists and businessmen to face-to-face debates in public and the media. We are confident we can expose all their lies and false claims.

—ROBERTO VERZOLA,
Philippine Greens,
former member,
National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP)

Floods make going to school an ordeal

IT'S several days before classes start, but instead of looking forward to it, I dread going back to school.

What I am anxious about is that like the years before, commuting to school will again be harder than passing the toughest exam.

It is unfortunate that classes start during the rainy season. Like a mathematical equation, rain equals flood, traffic, flu, wet books, sodden and dirty uniform, and wrecked school shoes—and now even SARS!

Think about how hard our parents toiled to provide us with school requirements that only get damaged because we have to brave our way to and from school. With the floods, the streets practically become a tropical jungle where only the fittest survives.

Think about how many more teenagers become discouraged to attend classes because of the terrible traffic jams and other troubles that come with the floods. Think about lost opportunities and wasted time we could have utilized to arm ourselves with knowledge and learning that will make us productive and responsible citizens.

All these because public services are so deficient.that normal rain showers cause abnormal flooding.

The youth can do something: We can participate in the activities of our local government and help oil the wheel that makes the operation of the bureaucracy squeaky.

We can do this, or we can wade through floods year after year.

—ANTOINETTE MAMACLAY,
Panghulo, Malabon City

Laxalt said it, not Lugar

I WOULD like to comment on the photo caption that appeared on Page 20 of the May 22, 2003 edition of the INQUIRER. It read: "Eating out of her hand? The President goes to Capitol Hill to meet with US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair Sen. Richard Lugar (right), a well-known ally of Philippine concerns, and Sen. Chuck Hagel. Lugar is the senator who told President Marcos in the dying days of his administration 'to cut clean and cut cleanly.'"

Based on my recollection of events and from what I have read in newspapers, magazines and books written about the 1986 Edsa Revolution, on Day Four, Feb. 25, 1986, of the historic event, it was Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, a close confidante of US President Ronald Reagan, who called and advised President Ferdinand Marcos "to cut and cut cleanly," not Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana.

The book "Closer Than Brothers" by Alfred W. McCoy says on Page 254: "At 5 a.m. Marcos had his last contact with the Reagan White House when Sen. Paul Laxalt called to advise 'cut and cut cleanly.'"

I hope you will verify and check this matter for the sake of loyal and avid readers of the INQUIRER like me. Thank you and more power to you for giving us "Balanced News, Fearless Views."

—EDWIN M. KATIGBAK,
7/F JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

You are correct. Thank you for pointing out our mistake.—Ed.

MSU doing well despite tight budget

THIS pertains to the column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan last June 29, where she welcomed the investment in scholarships for poor Muslim youth but bewailed the misuse of funds in Muslim Mindanao.

While we agree that funds for the education of Muslim youth should be properly monitored in order not to line the pockets of officials, we take strong exception to her statement that "Mindanao State University has one of the biggest per capita budgets among state universities, but there are doubts if its funds are being used wisely and prudently." To remove her doubts, we supply some relevant facts from the MSU Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs:

1. While MSU has the biggest budget among state universities and colleges in Mindanao (P1.2 billion), this pales in comparison with that of the University of the Philippines (P4.3 billion).

2. MSU allocates its P1.2-billion budget among 11 collegiate campuses and 40 feeder high schools with a combined population of over 67,000 students all over Mindanao, with only 9.3 percent going to Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) and Capital Outlay (CO). UP has more than 20 percent of its budget devoted to MOOE and CO.

3. MSU's annual student cost per capita is P17,000 compared to UP's P67,000.

4. Former CHED Chair Ester Garcia certified that: "Mindanao State University (MSU) is one of the five leading state universities with Center of Excellence (COE) titles in Chemistry (IIT), Biology (IIT), Mathematics (IIT), Physics (IIT) and Education (Marawi) and Centers of Development (COD) in Information Technology (IIT and Marawi) and Chemistry (Marawi)."

5. The Professional Regulatory Commission and the CHED identified MSU-Marawi, MSU-IIT and MSU-General Santos among the top 10 of the 199 high-performing Higher Education Institutes (HEI).

6. MSU graduates obtained first place in the national Mechanical Engineering Board Examinations for three straight years.

7. MSU produced Muslim topnotchers in the national Electrical Engineering Board Examinations.

8. Four campuses of MSU (Marawi, IIT, General Santos and Tawi-tawi) are fully computerized. MSU Marawi is among the few universities in the country using wireless Internet connection through an aerial networking system.

—ELIN ANISHA CAPAL GURO,
director, MSU Press and Information Office,
elincg@yahoo.com

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suu Kyi detention spurs world furor

WASHINGTON—International condemnation poured from around the world late Monday, after the arrest by the Burma (Myanmar) military junta of opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Britain summoned the Burma ambassador to make a protest while the United States, United Nations and European Union all joined condemnation over the detention of the pro-democracy leader.

President George W. Bush, speaking in Egypt, said he was "deeply concerned" at events in Burma while UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release after she was taken into "protective custody" at the weekend following protests by democracy activists.

Late Monday, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Special Rapporteur for Burma issued a joint statement to "urge the (Burma) government to renew its commitment to political reform and human rights."

A token of this commitment would begin "with the immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners," said the High Commissioner's Office, and Burma's Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro.

Aung San Suu Kyi was placed in "protective custody" at the weekend after clashes between her supporters and a pro-junta mob during a political tour of northern Burma Friday left four dead and 50 injured, the military said.

Some 18 members of her entourage were also detained, while the entire leadership of her opposition National League of Democracy (NLD) was under house arrest in the capital Rangoon.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said Burma "should immediately release" the opposition leader and her associates.

Late Monday, the group said the Burma government-created Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA) whose members were involved in the clashes with the NLD "has increasingly taken on a paramilitary character."

Earlier in the day, Burma's ambassador in London, Kyaw Win, was ordered to the Foreign Office to hear a protest from Junior Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell. Australia also summoned Burma's envoy to Canberra.

"Reports from Burma that Aung San Suu Kyi may have been injured during the attacks cause us particular anxiety, and I have sought assurances from the Burmese government that they will protect (her) welfare and safety," Rammell said in a statement.

President Bush in a statement said: "I am deeply concerned by reports from Burma of the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her political party, as well as reports that military authorities have closed her party headquarters in Rangoon."

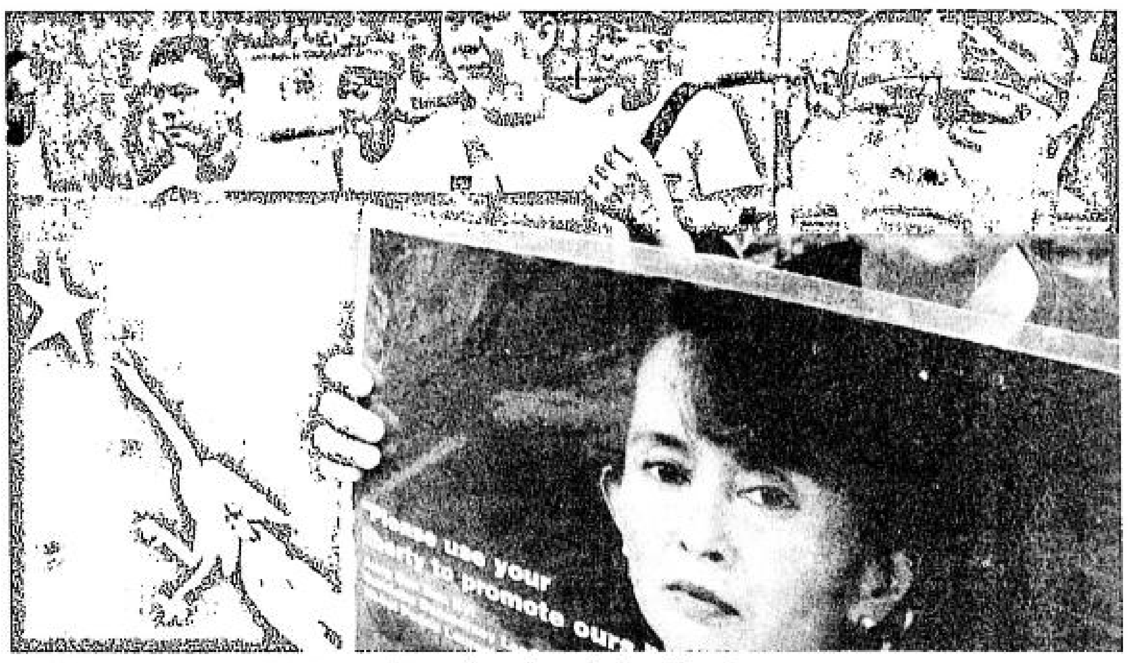
The statement was issued from Egypt, where Bush is to attend two Middle East peace summits. US Secretary of State Colin Powell also condemned the detention.

Burma also shut down her party's offices nationwide plus all the country's universities.

A spokesperson for the UN's Annan said: "At this crucial juncture, (Annan) maintains that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as both a national leader and the leader of the NLD, must be allowed to play a role, in cooperation with the government and others, in taking steps to bring about national reconciliation in Burma."

Annan instructed his Special Envoy to Burma, Razali Ismail, to talk to the Burma government, the spokesperson said. Ismail is also to talk to Aung San Suu Kyi, and other national leaders during a visit from June 6-10.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Sergio Viera de Mello also demanded the release of the NLD leader. *AFP*


Please use your liberty to promote ours

SUU KYI supporters rally in front of Burma's embassy in Seoul June 3. REUTERS

4 SARS victims die in HK, Toronto as toll nears 770

HONG KONG—A seventh frontline Hong Kong health care worker died of SARS, it was announced Sunday, while Toronto health officials said another resident died from the virus.

In Taiwan, officials handed out free thermometers in an islandwide "take-your-temperature" campaign amid signs containment efforts were paying off. The number of daily infections remained in single digits for the third day in a row.

China on Sunday reported no new SARS fatalities and two new cases on its mainland, the lowest figures for a single day since authorities began reporting cases on a daily basis in April. The death toll remained at 332 out of 5,330 cases.

Meanwhile, the global death toll approached 770 with more than 8,300 people sickened since the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus first appeared in southern China in November. Most of the victims have been in China and Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, there were three more deaths, including that of a 53-year-old ward attendant at the Prince of Wales Hospital, who was infected with SARS while caring for patients in March. The territory has announced 281 SARS deaths.

The deadliest outbreak outside Asia has been in Canada's largest city, Toronto, where authorities believed they had beaten the disease until a new cluster of infections was found last month in two city hospitals.

Health officials reported Sunday that an unidentified 60-year-old woman died the day before. The woman was exposed to the SARS virus while in the hospital but was not a health care worker, said Dr. Colin D'Cunha, Ontario's commissioner of public health.

Nurses have accused officials at the city's North York General Hospital of dismissing warnings of a new wave of SARS infections, the Toronto Star reported.

Doris Grinspun, executive director of the 16,000-member Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, called for a "full review" of why hospital officials ignored the warnings.

Grinspun's concerns came after two emergency room nurses tried to warn doctors at the hospital in mid-May that five family members had SARS-like symptoms, according to the newspaper. But she said the nurses were told they were overreacting.

Public health officials later announced dozens of new cases.

Marcia Taylor, the Ontario Nurses Association vice president, said that nurses knew SARS never disappeared.

"Our members were telling us of people with classic SARS symptoms coming into hospital. It appeared government was more focused on the protection of the Toronto tourist industry than the health of our health care workers and members of the public," she told the Toronto Star.

The nurses could not immediately be reached for further comment.

D'Cunha and Dr. James Young, Ontario's commissioner of public safety, told reporters at a news conference that they did not have the authority to set up a public inquiry into the nurses' claims, but they insisted health officials were ready to listen.

D'Cunha said there were 52 active probable cases of SARS, up six from the day before. The city's official SARS death toll stood at 31. Some 5,724 people remained in quarantine, down by nearly 2,000 from Saturday, D'Cunha said.

In Taiwan, officials were upbeat Sunday at the start of the campaign to encourage people to check for early symptoms of SARS.

Authorities reported just four new SARS cases and no deaths for the fourth successive day. Taiwan has had 81 fatalities, out of a total of 680 infections. *AP*

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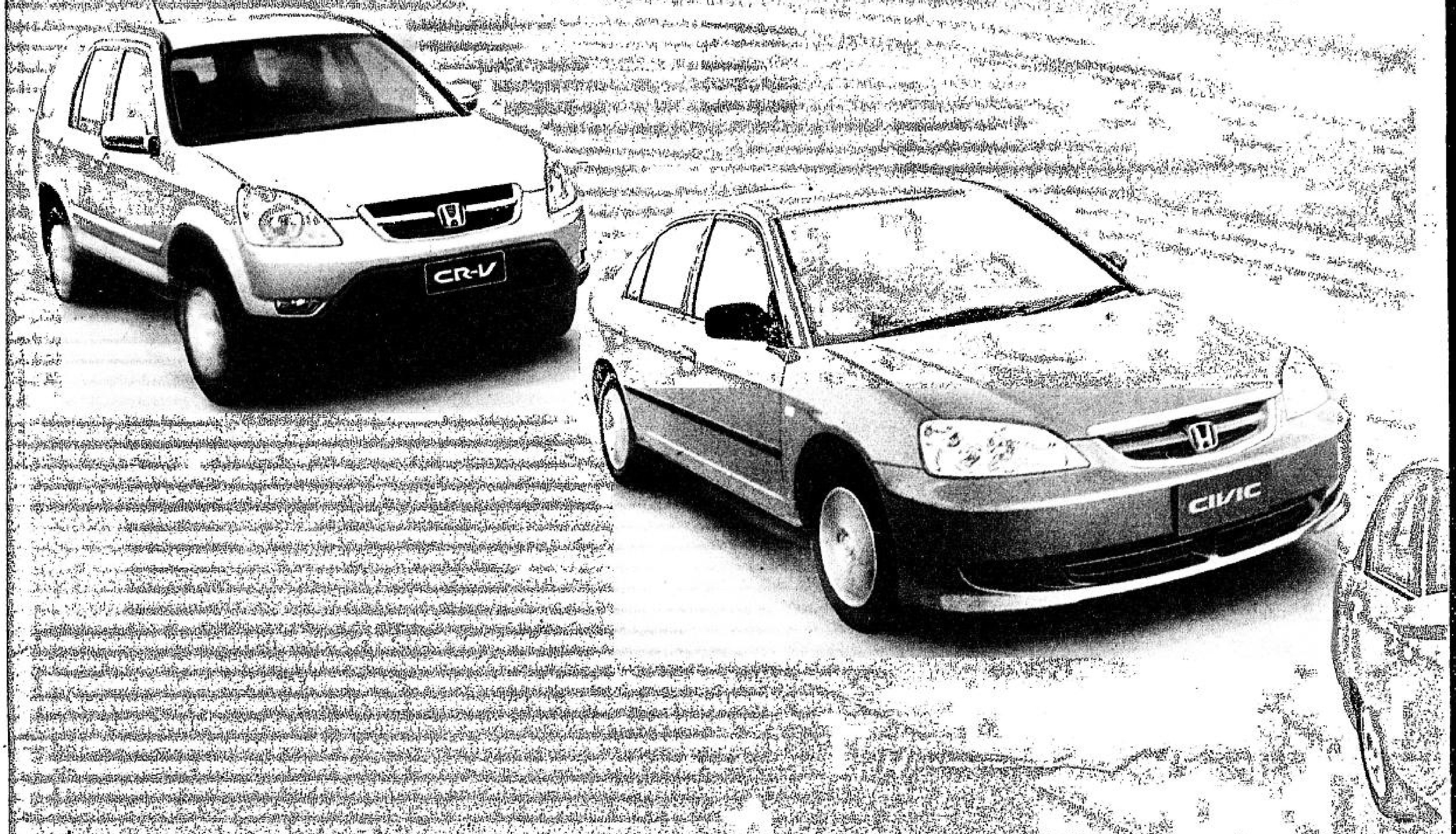

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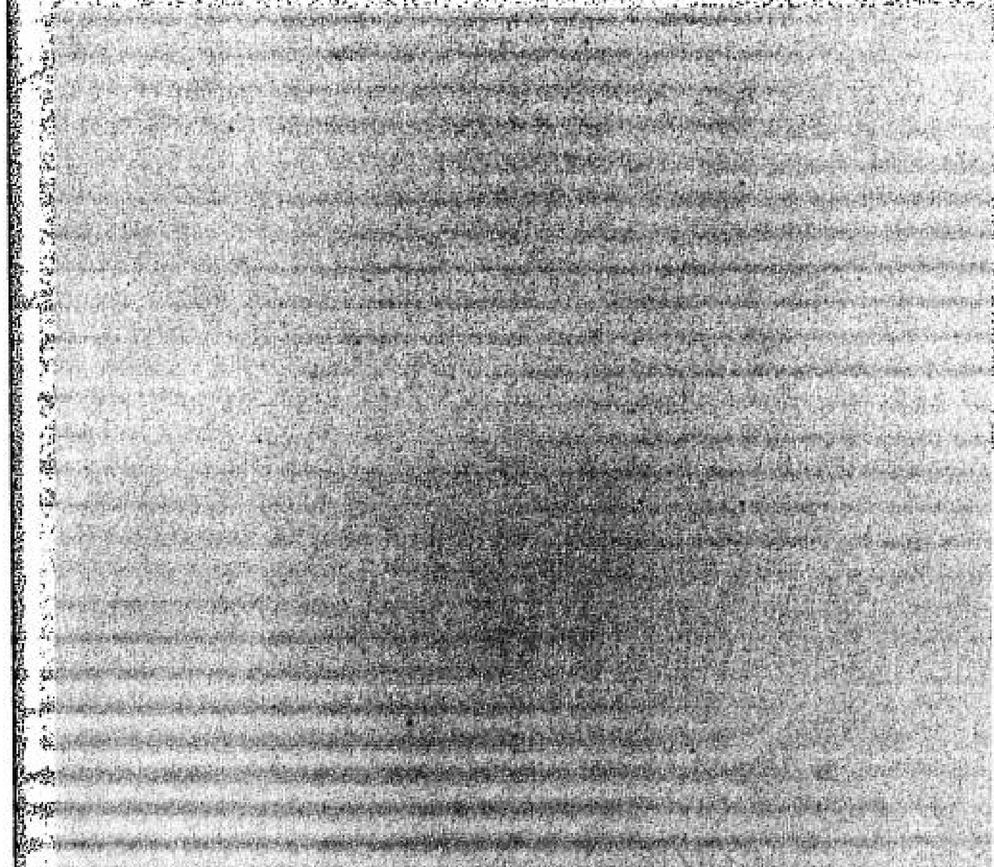

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MardiGras	MardiGras	MardiGras	MardiGras	MardiGras Honda World Show Treasure Hunt	MardiGras Honda World Show Treasure Hunt
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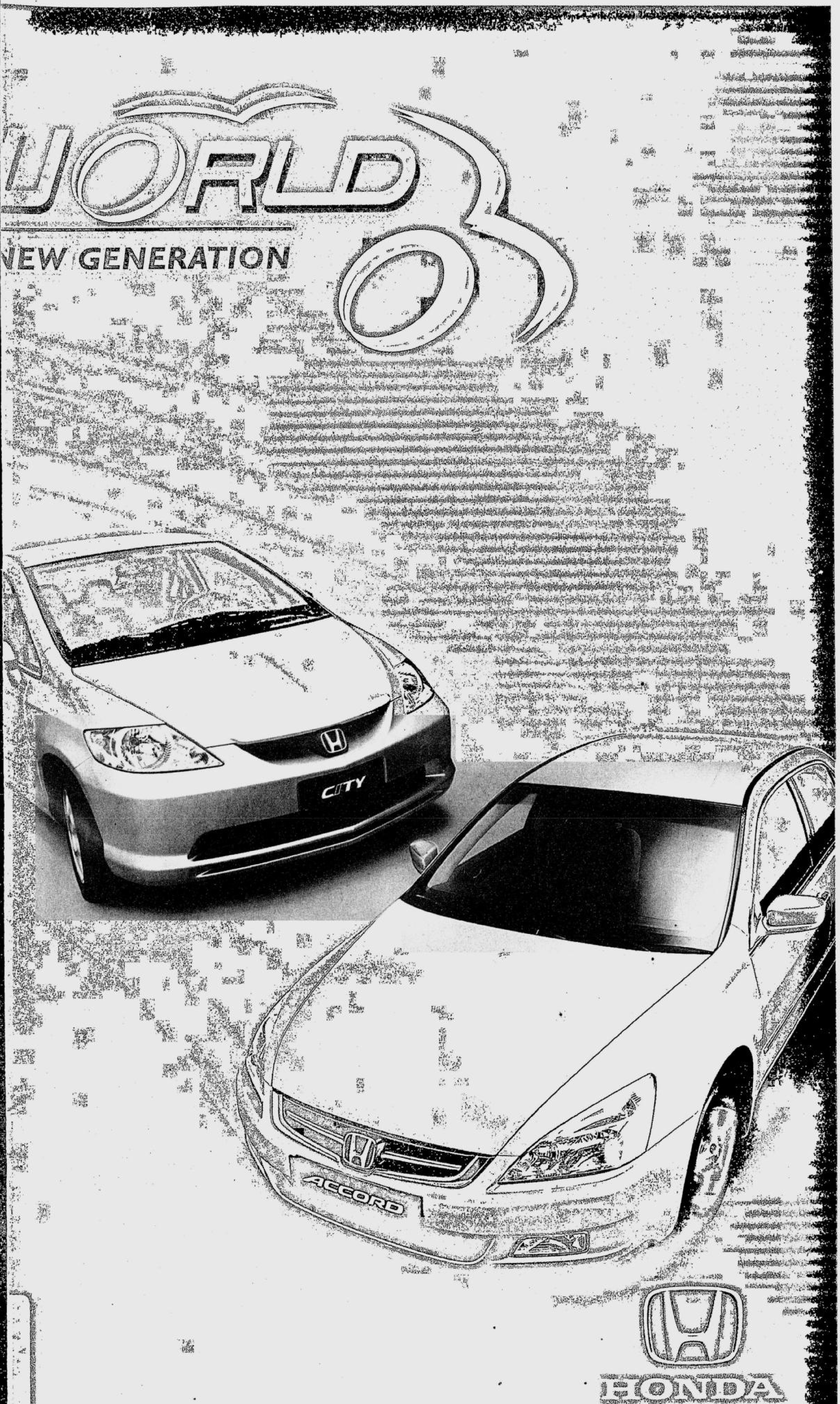
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US, UK dogged by failure to produce Iraq arms

BAGHDAD—US and British leaders were forced onto the defensive Monday over the failure to produce weapons of mass destruction in Iraq as food rations were distributed in the country for the first time since Saddam Hussein was toppled.

While leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized powers sought to put Iraq tensions behind them at their summit in France, pressure mounted on the US and British governments over the lack of weapons evidence.

Washington and London used accusations that Iraq was secretly developing chemical and biological weapons as the main justification to launch the war on Saddam.

But critics have said intelligence evidence was deliberately twisted to whip up support for an invasion.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair angrily denied the suggestions at the G-8 summit in the French resort of Evian.

"The idea that we doctored intelligence reports in order to invent some notion about a 45-minute capability of delivering weapons of mass destruction is completely and totally false," Blair told reporters.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Rome: "There were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. It wasn't a figment of anyone's imagination."

In Russia, which opposed the war, a top official urged the United States to quickly clear up the issue. "This should not be allowed to be dragged out," said Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov.

Top US lawmakers said they would investigate whether Washington officials exaggerated claims about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Sen. John Warner said the Senate Intelligence and Armed Services committees will hold joint hearings into whether an intelligence breakdown occurred in the run-up to the Iraq war, or whether officials oversold intelligence data to whip up domestic support for the conflict.

A senior US congressman, Henry Waxman of California, alleged that the Bush administration used forged documents to make its case in favor of invading Iraq.

At the United Nations, chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said UN arms inspectors could resume work in Iraq in two weeks if needed.

The inspectors left the country three days before the war began in late March and Washington has since said that it opposes their return in the short term, and has instead sent 1,300 of its own experts.

Distribution of food rations resumed for the first time since the war broke out in March, but the UN's World Food Program (WFP) said just 1,000 people in Baghdad received the package.

The ration program, begun after UN imposed sanctions on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, was the main source of food for about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people before the war.

Run by the WFP under Saddam's regime, the program is now supervised by the US authorities in the country, with WFP charged with buying and shipping the food to the Iraqi trade ministry.

In Baghdad, the new UN special representative to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello said Iraqis should rule themselves as quickly as possible. *AFP*

AN ANTI-GLOBALIZATION protester performs in front of Swiss riot police as hundreds of anti-G-8 demonstrators are cordoned off on Geneva's main bridge by rows of police in a tense standoff June 2. Several thousands of anti-globalization protesters assembled in Geneva to protest against the G-8 summit in Evian, France. AP

Bush, Chirac move toward reconciliation

EVIAN, France—US President George W. Bush and French counterpart Jacques Chirac took the first step Monday toward mending a rift in US-French ties at a G-8 summit that also yielded agreements on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and aid to Africa.

Their much awaited encounter came on the second day of a gathering of Group of Eight leaders that observers had feared would be marred by lingering rancor over the US-led war on Iraq, which G-8 members Canada, France, Germany and Russia bitterly opposed.

But in the event, according to Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, "nothing hijacked the discussions."

"There was optimism from all of the leaders at the end of the day."

Visibly at ease, Bush and Chirac said all the right things as they spoke to reporters ahead of private talks here in the French Alps resort of Evian.

"We must be frank, we went through a difficult period," Bush said.

But he insisted there was no reason why they could not work together again. "We can have disagreements, but it doesn't mean we have to be disagreeable to each other."

Afterward, French officials said Chirac would travel to the United States later this year.

While the Bush-Chirac encounter was the diplomatic photo-op of the day, the summit of the world's most powerful leaders also got down to the global fight against terror, arms proliferation and regional crises such as the Middle East and North Korea.

Bush, who left the gathering a day early for his first personal foray into the troubled Israeli-Palestinian peace process, said he was confident of "some progress" there, but acknowledged it was a difficult mission. *AFP*

Chemotherapy found to also benefit lung cancer patients

CHICAGO—Chemotherapy drugs have long been used to treat colon and breast cancer, but now there's evidence to show they can benefit lung cancer patients too, researchers said Monday.

The results of one clinical trial presented at a meeting of cancer specialists here suggested that doctors may be able to save an additional one in 20 lung cancer sufferers by giving them chemotherapy drugs following surgery to remove a tumor.

"The benefit reported could prevent around 7,000 deaths worldwide annually," said Thierry Le Chevalier, the lead investigator on the study.

The findings come from an international clinical trial involving some 1,800 early-stage cancer patients in 33 countries.

The results of the trial show that, five years after going under the knife, the group treated with drugs was living five years longer on average than the cancer-sufferers offered surgery only.

In addition, the volunteers on chemotherapy were more likely to remain in remission. At the five-year mark, 39 percent of the chemotherapy group were cancer-free compared to 34 percent of patients in the surgical group.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology here Monday, Le Chevalier, with the Institut Gustave Roussy, in Villejuif, France, said he expected the regimen to become the standard treatment for this group of lung cancer patients.

A Japanese study presented at the same meeting bolstered the notion that chemotherapy drugs can keep lung cancer sufferers alive longer than might otherwise be the case.

Researchers from Tokyo Medical University reported that five years after surgery, an extra two percent of the patients who were prescribed an oral drug called UFT were alive compared to a control group that was offered surgery only.

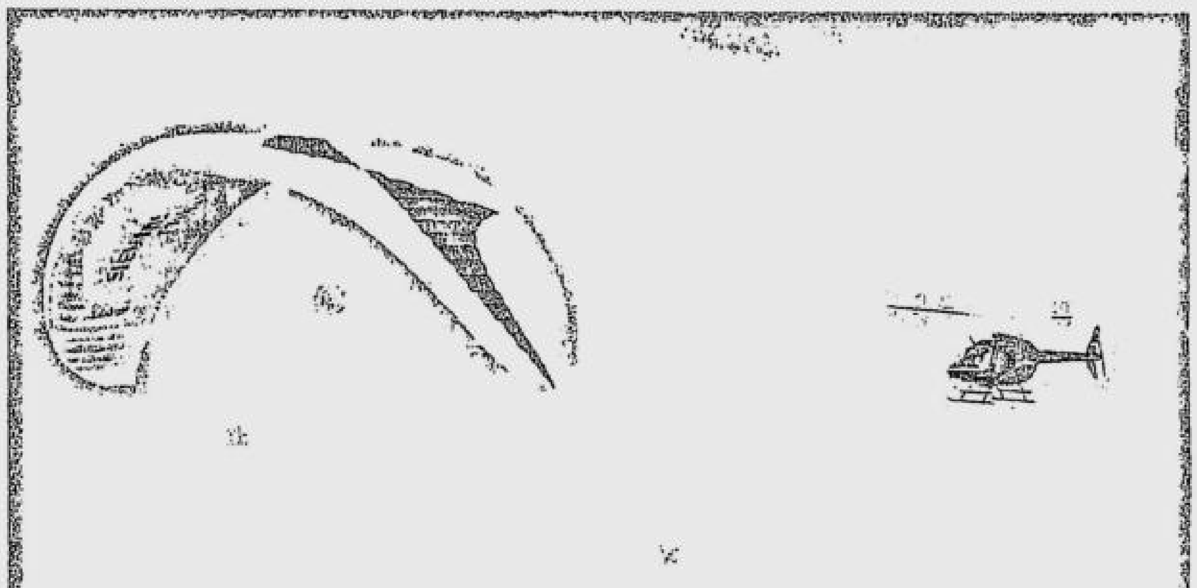
"Long-term oral treatment with UFT after surgery was shown to extend survival and cause minimal side effects," in early-stage lung cancer patients, investigator Masahiro Tsuboi said in a statement.

Separately, researchers in Chicago said that advanced lung cancer patients could benefit from surgery following the traditional radiation and chemotherapy treatment.

In a trial involving some 400 lung cancer sufferers, volunteers who had surgery saw a 15 percent reduction in their risk of death compared to the control group.

Three years after surgery, 38 percent of the surgical group were still alive, compared to 33 percent of controls.

Additionally, 29 percent of the patients who had chemo and radiation followed by surgery were in remission compared to 19 percent prescribed the conventional combination of chemotherapy and radiation. *AFP*



GLIDING TO HISTORY REUTERS

Austria's Mike Kueng makes history as he crosses the English Channel, between the ports of Calais in France to Dover in Britain, with a hang glider June 2. Kueng, 32, is the first person to make the 40-km journey by gliding alone some 94 years after the first crossing was made by means of a motorplane.

Europe launches first-ever space mission to Mars

THE MARS Express spacecraft is launched with a Soyuz FG booster rocket from the Russian-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan June 2. The European Space Agency said the space vehicle, which cost about $350 million, is on a six-month journey to Mars—the ESA's first interplanetary mission. REUTERS

BAIKONUR—Europe launched its first-ever bid to explore Mars Monday, successfully embarking on a half-year journey to unearth one of the oldest mysteries; whether there is life on the Red Planet.

Ninety minutes after liftoff from the Russian space base in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, the orbiter—carrying the "Beagle 2" lander—separated from an unmanned Soyuz rocket and began its 400 million km trip to uncover the mystery of life on Mars.

If all goes according to plan, on Christmas Day the Beagle-2, named after the ship that took Charles Darwin on a quest for the origins of life, will land on the planet and begin its exploration.

The successful launch marked Europe's official entry into the interplanetary travel club, European Space Agency scientific director David Southwood said following liftoff at 11:45 p.m.

"This is our first step. We are off to a great start," Southwood said.

"Europe is off to Mars . . . We can be proud of the speed with which we managed to rise up to that challenge," he added.

Professor John Zarnecki from Britain, part of the Beagle 2 team, told Sky News television he was pleased with the launch but added there was a long way to go before the probe reached its destination.

"Inside I was feeling incredibly nervous, but so far, as far as we can tell, everything looks fantastic," he told Britain's Sky News.

"We have a lot of hurdles to get over before we get to that final goal of landing on the surface of Mars and starting to make scientific measurements which is really what us scientists really want to do —that's the purpose for us being here," he added.

A few hours before launch time, Southwood voiced his appreciation of Europe's cooperation with Russia in the $190-million Mars mission.

"I'm really happy at this launch, also happy with the Russian involvement: this would have been unthinkable 20 years ago," he said.

The orbiter is to reach Mars in less than seven months, its seven cameras, radars and spectrometers ready to scour the planet's surface from orbit.

Once in orbit around the Red Planet, the Mars Express will launch the Beagle-2, which will descend to the equatorial region of the Isidis Basin to test the Martian soil, probably landing in the small hours of Dec. 25.

Scientists hope that its lander's findings could, like the data Darwin brought back from the remote Galapagos islands, revolutionize man's understanding of his place in the universe by detecting signs of life on Mars, a notion that has fired men's imagination for centuries.

The Beagle-2, seen in simulated images bouncing on the Martian surface like a large football, contains a package of sophisticated instruments, a pair of stereoscopic cameras, a solar power pack and a "mole" robot that can inch along the Martian surface, or drill a meter or more below it, to sample the soil.

The Mars Express will be followed by two vastly better-funded US missions, one scheduled for June 8 and the other provisionally due to lift off on June 25, also aiming to settle once and for all the question of whether life exists, or has ever existed on Mars. *AFP*

NZ man building cruise missile in his garage

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Using hi-tech parts bought over the Internet, a New Zealand handyman says he is building a cruise missile in his garage and has a message for anyone who wants to do the same; You don't have to be a rocket scientist.

Bruce Simpson says he's planning to give step-by-step instructions via a website on how to make the jet-powered missile, which he claims would be able to fly the 100 km between his home and Auckland in less than 15 minutes, the New Zealand Herald reported.

The missile could carry a small warhead weighing 10 kg, and Simpson claimed the Air Force would have no way of stopping it.

Simpson, 49, who works as an Internet site developer, said that his missile project, which he says will cost less than 5,000 New Zealand dollars ($2,850), was intended to warn governments how easy it would be for terrorists to build one.

"Obviously the goal of this website is not to provide terrorists or other nefarious types with the plans for a working cruise missile but to prove the point that nations need to be prepared for this type of sophisticated attack from within their own borders," Simpson says on his website.

A police spokesperson declined to comment on whether they were investigating Simpson's project, but said they were "now aware of the situation." *AP*

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₱78M in crops lost due to floods, drought

ABOUT P78 million worth of agricultural products were destroyed in Negros Oriental and Central Luzon due to floods and drought, authorities said.

Central Luzon lost about P17.3 million worth of crops and livestock due to the widespread flooding brought about by tropical storm Chedeng last week, officials of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) said here on Tuesday.

In Negros Oriental, the provincial agricultural office (PAO) reported that the El Niño weather phenomenon destroyed some P61 million worth of corn, rice, sugarcane and other plants in the province.

Rice farmers in Central Luzon bore the brunt of the disaster, losing *palay* worth P12.958 million. The bulk belonged to Bulacan where 64 villages in seven towns were heavily flooded.

The RDCC said the region lost P2.146 million worth of vegetables and P2.173 million worth of farm animals.

But Arturo Ramos, officer-in-charge of the regional Office of Civil Defense, described the effects of Chedeng as "minimal" compared to the impact of last year's floods in the region.

Last year, flood-affected residents reached more than a million while damage to agriculture reached almost P65 million, reports showed.

Pampanga, located at the center of the basin-shaped region, was spared from serious floods last week, RDCC officials said during the meeting.

Gregorio Paltinca, officer-in-charge of the Negros Oriental PAO, said that reports from municipal agricultural officers in the province showed that some 2,141 hectares of farm lands were devastated by the long drought that hit the country between late last year up to April.

At least 1,464 ha of lands planted to corn were destroyed by the drought, followed by 361 ha planted to rice, and 200 ha of sugarcane land. Other affected farms were planted to cotton, vegetables, and legumes.

Badly hit by the long dry spell was Bayawan City, with P32 million in damages. Bayawan is 105 km south of here.

Paltinca said the Bayawan city council has declared the city in a state of calamity, which allowed the city to utilize some P5 million from its calamity fund to assist farmers badly hit by the drought.

Bayawan has 1,454 ha of corn fields, 82 ha of rice farms and 96 ha of cotton plants damaged by the drought.

The vegetable-rich Canlaon City registered a little over P24 million in damage for the 200-ha sugarcane plantation; 150-ha rice plants; 20 ha for vegetables and 10 ha for corn hit by the El Niño. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 387 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Tacloban docs welcome improved public reaction to suspected SARS patients

THE REPORT on the latest Severe Accute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) suspect in Eastern Visayas hardly created a stir among residents in the city and in the town where the suspect resides.

The Department of Health in Eastern Visayas attributed the "change in reaction" among the people to a better understanding of the disease.

In contrast, the mayor of Tiwi, Albay has asked municipal employees to wear surgical masks because of an earlier report that two overseas Filipino workers from Hong Kong have come back home to this town.

"I want to protect my employees so I ordered the purchase of masks since many people are now coming to the municipal hall," said Tiwi Mayor Patria Gutierrez.

She confirmed having also ordered buying Vitamin C tablets to build her employees' resistance against the killer pneumonia. But instead of SARS, what hit the town, especially the lady mayor, was the accusation that the masks were bought at P200 each. Gutierrez vehemently denied this, saying each mask costs only P9.

In Tacloban, EK, the suspected SARS patient continues to show some improvement at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC).

The 30-year-old Filipina married to a Taiwanese no longer has fever although she was diagnosed to be suffering from tuberculosis. She returned to the country for a vacation on May 17. On May 29, she developed high fever and difficulty of breathing, two of the SARS symptoms. She was brought to EVRMC on June 1.

"The panic that arose during the time of JP was mainly due to fear of ignorance. Now, it's no longer the case. The people are now aware of the disease, especially how it can be acquired," Dr. Mila Bacho-Bacus, health regional chief, told the INQUIRER.

She recalled that during the time of JP, the first suspected SARS patient brought to the EVRMC, practically all of the people in the region went into panic as they trooped to drugstores and tried to outdo each other in getting masks.

Rochelle Duquitan, a pharmacist of the Rose Pharmacy, said that this time, no customer had yet approached the drugstore to buy a mask since the confinement of EK.

Dr. Adelaida Asperin, EVRMC chief of hospital, also noted a big change in the reaction of the hospital staff. She did doctors and nurses no long resisted being assigned to look after EK. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Extinct' bat found in Negros

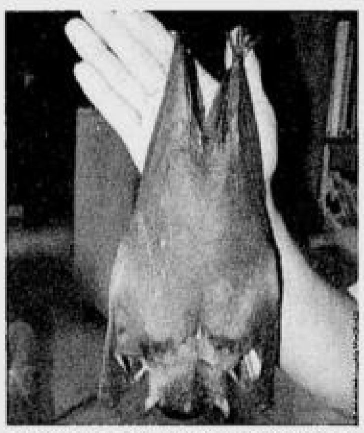
By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Scientists at the Silliman University (SU) have found a bat species believed to have become extinct more than 30 years ago.

Ely Alcala, Ph.D., research associate of the Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (Suakcrem), said the Negros bareback fruit bat (*Dobsonia chapmani*) was found in the limestone forest of Sipalay City, Negros Occidental last week.

The SU biologists were in the Sipalay limestone forest to investigate the effects of forest fragmentation on mammals and herpetofauna, a project spearheaded by the Suakcrem, supported by the Asean Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC).

Alcala said the biologists were doing preliminary work in Cauayan town and Sipalay in Negros Occidental when they discovered the bat.



THE NEGROS bareback fruit bat
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Mammalogists have suggested that this species may have been the first Negros endemic to become extinct because this has not been seen for a very long time," Alcala said.

The Negros bareback fruit bat used to be found in abundant numbers in Basay town, Negros Oriental during the early '60s. The bat species were believed to have disappeared from the area because of deforestation and severe hunting pressure, Alcala said.

"This bat is very rare in a sense that it glides wonderfully as it is the only bat whose wings are found on its back, hence the name bareback," Alcala said.

The wings of other bat species are found on their sides.

He said they are closely coordinating with Binhi sang Kauswagan Foundation, a nongovernment group based in Sipalay, to protect the remaining limestone forests in southwestern Negros.

"By protecting the forests, the animal habitats are preserved and biodiversity as a whole is conserved," Alcala said.

The discovery of the species in southwestern Negros suggests that the animal lives in limestone forests. This also provides an impetus for resurrecting the species.

"Because this was already thought to be extinct, this discovery will make this bat the most endangered bat on earth," Alcala said.

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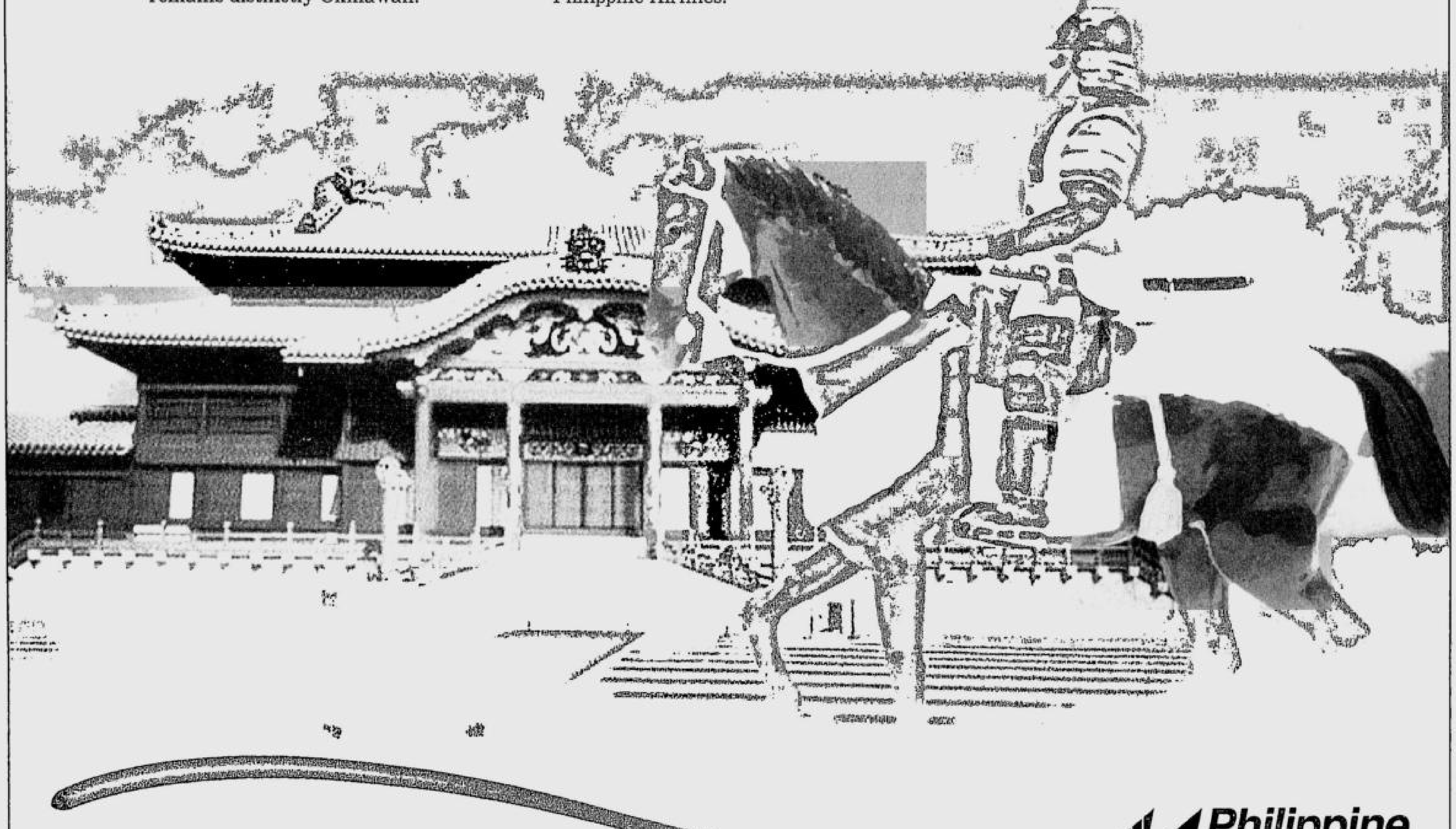

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12 YEARS AFTER

Pinatubo victims still rebuilding lives

By Tonette Orejas
Clark Special Economic Zone

EVEN after 12 years, Elyn Francisco said time had not erased her memories of the violent eruption of Mt. Pinatubo on June 12, 1991.

Francisco and her family lost their home, farms and farm animals to the world's most catastrophic eruption at the second half of the 20th century. Francisco's village in San Marcelino town in Zambales was also transformed into wide stretches of gray desert in minutes due to tons of ash and sand and lahar spewed out by the volcano.

"I still cry. It hurts," the 44-year-old government employee spoke softly of how she felt about the losses, of running out of harm, of moving from one evacuation center to another, of subsisting on relief food packs, and of how she and her family had tried to rebuild their lives.

Almost 2 million people living closely to the volcano, which straddles three Central Luzon provinces, shared that tragedy with Francisco.

With the drastic change of Central Luzon's topography, especially the loss of rivers and the accumulation of seven billion cubic meters of lahar waiting to be washed by strong rains from the volcano's slopes, volcanologists foresaw a lingering disaster.

To rebuild from nothing except hope amid a continuing calamity did bring good results, Francisco said. It helped, she noted, that the government spent resources for the victims.

From an initial P10 billion, the rehabilitation funds ballooned to P31 billion until 1998 when the term of the Mount Pinatubo Commission (MPC) ended, according to congressiohal papers documenting the inquiries into alleged corruption in the agency.

Part of the funds went into the construction of 23 resettlements.

Starting anew

It was in the Balaybay resettlement in the upland area of Castillejos town in Zambales that Francisco started life anew. Like her, 54,000 families or about 300,000 people charted a new life in 16 resettlement areas still being maintained by the MPC's successor, the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO) of the Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Asked to describe the kind of life that she and 1,007 families there now lead, Francisco, the president of the homeowners association in Balaybay, said: "On a scale of 1 to 10, it's 6."

While there is now a semblance of normalcy, some basic needs are lacking, she added.

"We need livelihood support. There's a need for an efficient water system. Most of the time, we get water from springs," she said.

LAHAR, washed down by strong rains from the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo, crawled to the lowlands since 1991, claiming vast agricultural lands and everything in its path.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VOICE

In Balaybay, 60 percent of the income earners are government employees, while 10 percent work at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The rest are former farmers who survive through occasional carpentry and construction jobs.

Joy Pinlac said life was more difficult at the Floridablanca resettlement in eastern Pampanga. Pinlac, the secretary of the homeowners association there, said most of the heads of the more than 4,000 families gathered from 20 villages were still without stable jobs.

"Most of them used to be farmers who until now could not cultivate their lands. Jobs are scarce in the resettlement," she said. The clear indication of that, she added, is that many children are out of school.

Livelihood

To put her children in school, Pinlac rents out pocketbooks and maintains a small *sari-sari* store. "On and off *kasi ang trabaho ng asawa ko*," she adds.

Like Francisco, Pinlac voiced out the request for providing livelihood opportunities.

"The men need farming support. The women need skills training like sewing, handicraft making. *Kahit ano basta disenteng mapagkakakitaan*," she said.

Erlinda Lacsamana, an Aeta, had found a solution to a life of want in the post-disaster years: Revive the farms in her former village Kalapi, just at the periphery of Clark.

Like many Aeta, Lacsamana leaves the Madapdap resettlement in Mabalacat on months when planting bananas, papaya and sweet potato was possible in Kalapi.

After harvest time, she hangs around duty-free stores to sell the crops. On rainy months, she returns to the resettlement, joining her children who have remained there to avail of free education.

"There are no means to live there. You may have a house but if you don't have a land to till, you can't survive," Lacsamana said to justify her return to Kalapi. At least 40 families have returned to the village.

Rebecca de Leon from the O'Donnel resettlement in Capas, Tarlac, took a big risk this year. For the first time in 12 years, she and her husband are planting sugarcane in 1.5 hectares of land buried by lahar. This parcel in Sta. Rita in Concepcion was given to them by Doña Aurora Aquino, mother of the slain opposition leader, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Dream

But as these four women in the resettlement communities try to make out their lives anew while they explore the solutions to their woes, they have one need that will secure the rebuilding process they have begun.

Each said they were looking forward to the day when they could really claim ownership to a piece of land in the resettlement.

Some 20,000 settlers who came to the Expo Pilipino last week for the first congress of homeowners associations in the 16 resettlements clamored for land titles.

The titles have yet to come until after the Bureau of Internal Revenue grants the HUDCC's request to exempt the settlers from paying capital gains tax on the property, according to Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

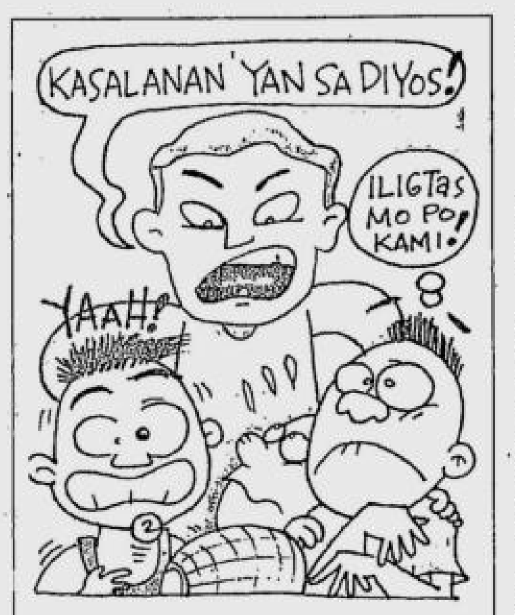
The titles, De Leon said, would really give true meaning to the promise that President Macapagal-Arroyo made last year: That the houses and the lots are free.

Frank Mangulabnan, chair of the Pinatubo victims organization Ugnayan, said with the "slow rate" that the PPMO was giving out Transfer Certificate of Titles (2,000 out of 54,000, latest count shows), it would take the HUDCC arm 27 years to accomplish the task.

Ruth Pambid of the Central Luzon Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation (Concern), a nongovernment disaster management institution, said the recovery process of Pinatubo victims had been slowed down by government's infrastructure-oriented responses, lack of security over the ownership of land in the resettlements and the economic crisis.

"Many of the victims led impoverished lives before the disaster struck. The rebuilding would have been fast if the government had addressed the roots of their vulnerability to the disaster, which was poverty. Land reform, job creation through industrial development plus the creation of livable communities would have speed up the recovery process," Pambid said.

The effects of the disaster, she noted, would still be felt by several more decades.


KASALANAN 'YAN SA DIYOS!
ILIGTAS MO PO! KAMI!
YAAH!

This priest is 'jueteng buster'

By Cristina Arzadon
Laoag City

IN A MOVE to curb "jueteng" in Laoag City, a Catholic priest has donned a police hat in rounding up bet collectors and sending them to jail.

And Fr. Leonardo Ruiz, director of the Social Action Center under the Laoag diocese, doesn't mind being called upon to do the arrest in far-flung towns where authorities are sleeping on their jobs.

In a rather amusing situation, Ruiz once ended up being dressed down by a policeman whom a jueteng collector ran to for assistance after getting caught.

"This collector went to a cop and filed a complaint about being arrested. I ended up being questioned by this officer," Ruiz said.

Popular

But because the priest has become a popular figure in jueteng circles, collectors have developed a code to alarm other operators that he was on his way to a draw.

"Collectors would send the code 'Amen, Amen' to indicate that I am within the vicinity," Ruiz said.

The priest is virtually a one-man jueteng buster but he has a network of spies in the different parishes in the province to monitor illegal gambling activities.

Priority

Laoag Bishop Ernesto Salgado, who made the anti-jueteng drive as one of his priority concerns, formed the Task Force AJIL (Anti-Jueteng in Ilocos Norte) to strengthen the government's anti-illegal gambling drive.

Based on the Church's monitoring, jueteng is being conducted in 22 towns in Ilocos Norte, either by being the site of draws or by the presence of bet collectors.

The draws are conducted thrice a day, the task force monitoring showed. The names of collectors, including their mode of operation, have been listed down and sent to Interior Secretary Jose Lina for action.

Arrested collectors are endorsed to the police, but the bets and other paraphernalia are recorded and kept at the bishop's residence.

"We can just provide the police photographs of these items if they need them for exhibits. We would rather keep them intact and produce them when necessary," Ruiz said.

Springboard

He said the anti-jueteng campaign is another springboard from which to realize the church's program of justice and peace in the communities.

He said jueteng would remain a menace unless local chief executives, policemen and communities take concrete steps to stop it.

"We want to put across the message that if I am the police, why are the priests doing the arrest when it is supposed to be my job," he said.

"It's no secret that some government officials and police officers receive grease money from jueteng (that's why jueteng does not cease)."

Ruiz said plans were being drawn to ask the police to deputize all priests and religious organizations to make arrests.

"Church-based workers need to be clothed with police powers so that they can arrest jueteng collectors and operators. Once we have this, we can immediately collar any collector in the neighborhood," he said.

City of Pines bats for special heritage zone

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

DECADES ago, the mere mention of Mines View Park evokes the beginning of Baguio as the summer refuge and literally the golden city of the country.

From the view deck, one can see the gold mines of Itogon and Loakan and the emerald sea of pine canopy. Now, all one sees are rooftops of houses and the denuded mountains.

Below are children risking lives and limbs to grab coins thrown by tourists. They even formed a small pool on the right side of the chasm and called it a "wishing well" during the times when the children weren't there.

A white horse stood beside the view deck; taking your picture with it means an extra P10.

When Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon recently visited Mines View Park, all he saw were dozens of stalls selling souvenirs, *ukay-ukay* (used clothes) and banana cue. He was so incensed he threatened to remove Mines View Park from the city's tourist spots.

"No one comes to see the view here anymore. They come here to shop because sometimes it's cheaper here than in the city market," said stall owner Vilma Ledesma.'

Last month, INQUIRER columnist and urban planner Augusto Villalon reminded Baguio officials that the city has deteriorated from one of the premier hill stations of Asia to a dismal one.

IN THE olden days, the view deck of the Mines View Park overlooks the gold mines of Itogon and Loakan and the emerald sea of pine canopy. Now, all one sees are rooftops of houses and the denuded mountains.

PDI PHOTO

"Where did the old Baguio go? The City of Pines is now a memory, and that memory is dying fast. Instead of a city with the invigorating fragrance of pines permeating the clear, crackling mountain air, Baguio now smells more of the air-polluting motor vehicle emissions. The pine cover seems to have diminished. Has pollution killed the remaining trees that people have not yet felled?" Villalon wrote.

"Now there really is not much left of the heritage of Baguio as the Philippines' only Hill Station, the summer capital of the country . . . Baguio residents and the rest of their Filipino brothers have absolutely no awareness of the uniqueness of the City of Pines," he added.

Residents and kindred souls led by former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta responded with an online petition that called for declaring the city a special heritage zone.

"We believe that in the past two decades, the city of Baguio has experienced a substantial degradation of its unique culture, environment and art. We believe that the approval by certain politicians with no respect for the aesthetics and the environment of Baguio to put up concrete structures such as malls, overpasses and flyovers only worsens Baguio City's lamentable decay as a 'City of Pines.' We believe that this overdevelopment and resulting pollution have to stop," the petition said.

"We believe, therefore, that the city of Baguio deserves to be declared a special heritage zone so that the degradation brought about by overdevelopment can be minimized and gradually controlled. We believe that Baguio City's heritage as a center of culture and environmental awareness is a valuable asset not just to the Philippines, but also to the world," it said.

The petition urged the local and national governments concerned "to confer on this unique mountain city the special heritage status as soon as possible, preferably before the Baguio Centennial in 2009, so no further destruction of its limited cultural, environmental and aesthetic resources may continue."

When the petition made the rounds in cyberspace three weeks ago, most of those who responded were foreigners and Filipinos in other countries.

Villalon's lament that the pride of place has been lost among the residents may ring true.

Bus torched on Ecija mountain highway

CABANATUAN CITY—Armed men suspected to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned a Metro Manila-bound passenger bus on a mountain highway in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, on Tuesday, police said.

The suspects blocked the path of a Baliwag Transit bus in Barangay Piut in Carranglan at about 12:30 a.m. and ordered its driver and more than 40 passengers to alight, police said. The suspects then poured gasoline on the bus and set it on fire.

Reports said the suspects allowed the passengers to take their belongings. No one was reported hurt.

Bus driver Gavino Reyes reported the incident to the public assistance center in Barangay Digdig, Carranglan, which was about 7 km away from the area where the bus was torched. The suspects, however, had left the area when policemen arrived.

The bus left its terminal in Aparri, Cagayan, at 1:30 p.m. Monday.

Reports here said the group was collecting revolutionary taxes from bus companies plying the Manila-Cagayan Valley route and firms that resisted were "punished" by burning their buses.

A number of passenger buses belonging to different bus companies had been burned on the national highway's Carranglan stretch in the past few years.

Baliwag Transit, one of the biggest bus companies in Central Luzon, has been serving the Metro Manila-Cagayan Valley route for more than 12 years. One of its buses was also burned by armed men here in the early 1990s. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 suspected kidnappers slain in Laguna encounter

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Two suspected kidnappers, including a former Army officer were killed in an encounter with the Laguna police and the Presidential Anti-Crime Emergency Response in Barangay Matala-tala in Mabitac, Laguna on Monday.

Laguna police director Edwin Corvera identified the fatalities as former Army Capt. Benjamin Peria of Batangas and Reynaldo Toledo of Morong, Rizal.

The two were suspects in the kidnapping of Lusito Yu, owner of the Laguna Champion Food Corp., who was abducted in this town last week.

Corvera said the suspects were on board a black Honda Civic bearing plate number UTC 854 and 33-J in front, as they were seen entering Villa Nerisa Resort in Pakil town, hours before the encounter.

The suspects were said to be in the company of still unidentified persons.

Police followed the suspects as soon as they left the resort.

"The suspects tried to evade police checkpoint in Pakil. That prompted our police officers to go after them towards the southern district of Laguna," Corvera told the INQUIRER.

He said an informant told them that the suspects were going to meet somebody in Tanay, Rizal.

The chase ended when police were able to block the national road in Mabitac.

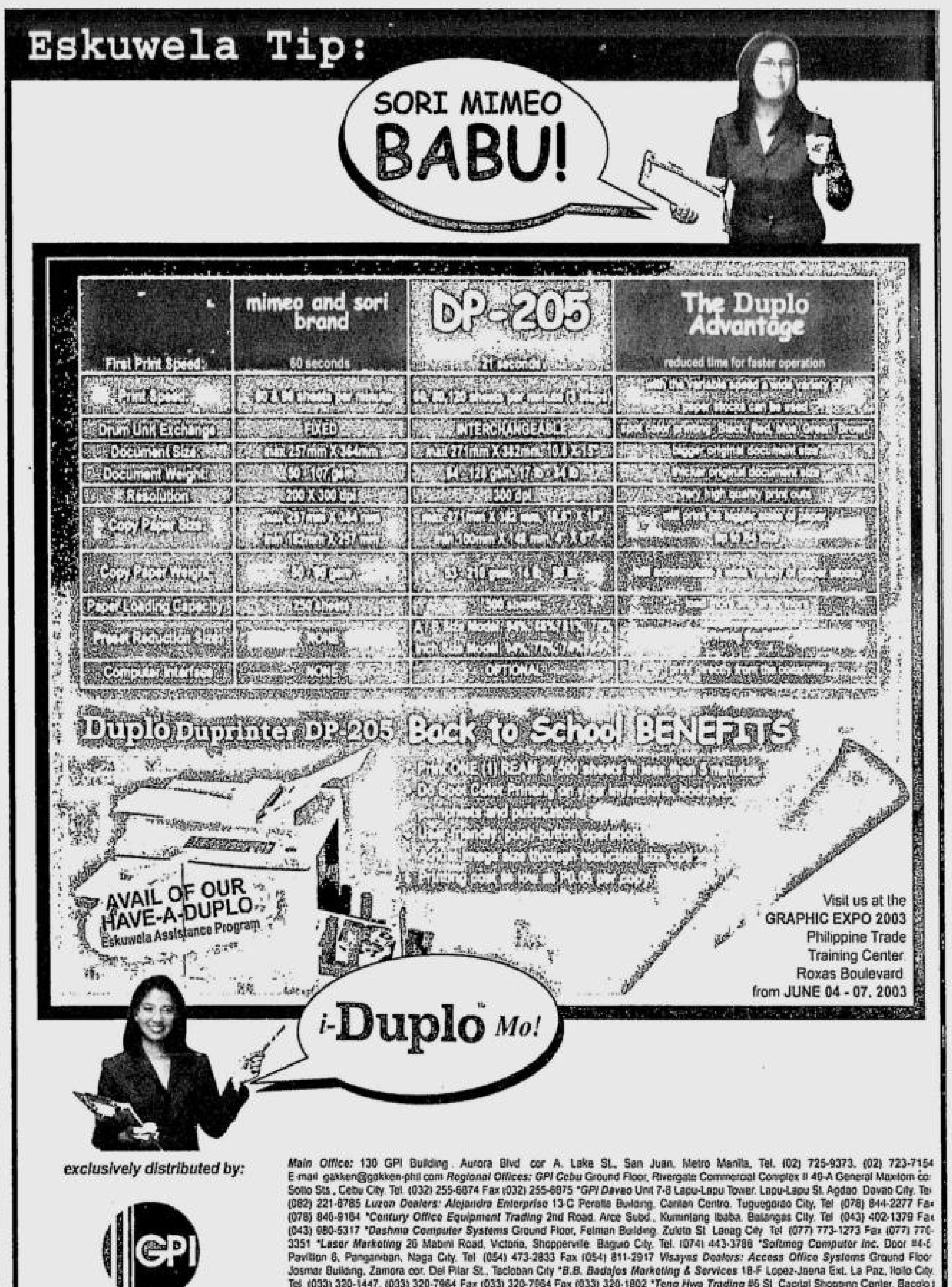
Police tried to negotiate with the passengers of the car but the suspects instantly fired upon the arresting officers, Corvera said.

The family of the kidnap victim had not been cooperating with them and no one from the family bothered to talk with them.

In a follow-up investigation, police said the Honda car was a carnapped vehicle.

The suspects were also facing different court cases in Southern Tagalog, including other cases of kidnapping.

Police recovered an M16 baby armalite, a .45-caliber pistol, numerous spent shells and P40,000 in cash from the suspects. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Ate Glo, Kabayan Noli spark talk of teamup

From page A1

and shoved on stage for a chance to get into group photographs with him.

Intentionally or not, De Castro wore a *barong*, thus easily standing out from the rest of the delegation wearing typical suits.

Ms Macapagal's party included Representatives Charlie Cojuangco (Negros Occidental) and Del de Guzman (Marikina), Cabinet members like Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III, and Presidential Adviser Luis "Chavit" Singson.

A few of the Filipinos also posed for photographs with Roxas and Singson.

In introducing the officials with her, Ms Macapagal particularly cited De Castro's presence as though to emphasize her supposed power-packed delegation.

She gestured toward him when, in her speech, she noted the important role being played by overseas Filipino workers in helping keep the Philippine economy afloat through their foreign currency remittances.

De Castro also had the honor of being seated at the right of the President. (Seated at her left was Ople, who at one point had a coughing fit.)

His hair slicked back, De Castro—who emerged No. 1 in the 2001 senatorial race, his first stab at an electoral post—looked every inch a winner.

And with talk of the President possibly changing her mind and running for election in 2004, his being seated at her right could be an indication of things to come.

But except for her mention of the absentee voting law as a gift of her administration to Filipino workers abroad, there was no talk of politics or elections in the President's speech.

She even passed up the chance to kiss a toddler brought on stage by a proud Filipino mother for a photo op. She merely stroked the child's hair and waved goodbye after the cameras flashed.

But she beamed radiantly when a Filipino band launched into "Isn't She Lovely?"

100 signatures

On home grounds, however, an ally of the President is moving to convince her to reconsider her December 2002 declaration not to run in 2004.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said yesterday that he was in the process of getting the signatures of 100 congressmen for a letter he had written the President asking her to seek election.

Gonzalez said he began making the rounds Monday night, during the meeting of the national directorate of the ruling Lakas at the Makati City residence of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

He said he had gotten some signatures, but declined to name names. "I'm aiming for 100," he told the INQUIRER.

After the meeting, Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez confirmed to reporters that a number of Lakas members wanted the President to run.

Alvarez said a group from the Lakas executive committee would soon confer with Ms Macapagal regarding her political plans.

"It should not be a hanging question," he told reporters.

De Venecia said party leaders did not take up matters involving the 2004 election at the meeting, purportedly upon the President's request.

He said that at the meeting, the national directorate authorized the Lakas executive committee to recommend the party's official candidates for president and vice president, for approval by the party's national assembly.

He also said the executive committee was authorized to form a selection committee to choose candidates for senators, congressmen, governors and city mayors for 2004.

Short list

The party also passed a resolution commending the President for her successful state visit to the United States, which, De Venecia said, netted about $3.2 billion in economic assistance.

De Venecia said that based on proposals by party leaders, including former President Fidel Ramos, a short list of the nominees for president and vice president would be prepared by August or September.

"Whether [Ms Macapagal] likes it or not, her name will be submitted as part of the short list [of nominees for president]," Gonzalez said.

He said that even if the President's possible candidacy was not discussed at the Monday night meeting, he could "gauge the sentiment" of party members that they wanted her to run next year.

In his letter to the President, Gonzalez said Lakas risked splitting up if she does not run.

This, he said, was in view of the fact that a number of party members were now pushing for businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as the administration's standard-bearer.

Gonzalez said he pointed out in his letter that the gains achieved by the President's administration, including her US state visit and the impressive GNP growth, were sufficient to "justify her bid to seek a fresh mandate" from the people.

He added that even the business community as well as people polled in recent surveys wanted the President to run.

IN MEMORIAM of the war dead during the Korean War, where Filipino soldiers fought under the United Nations command, President Macapagal offers incense at the National Cemetery on Tuesday. REUTERS

ROYAL welcome for President Macapagal with her host, President Rho Moo-hyun, reviewing the honor guard in the grounds of the Blue House, the centuries-old royal villa that is now the official residence of South Korea's presidents. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

LITTLE girl in her native Korean dress presents a bouquet to President Macapagal who's on state visit to Korea June 2 to 4. REUTERS

SCHOOLCHILDREN all in a row with Philippine and South Korean flags cheer President Macapagal. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

From the White House to the Blue House

From page A1

Even the grass looked greener against the red carpet laid out for Ms Macapagal's inspection of the guards.

The hosts—Roh in a gray suit and a pink tie, his wife Kwon Yang-sook in white—stepped out of the Blue House, its unique blue-tiled roof glistening in the morning sunshine, just as the limousine bearing their guests was making its way through the driveway.

Ms Macapagal was dressed in a cream-colored two-piece suit, and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, in a black suit and a gray tie.

After the ceremony on the lawn, the hosts ushered the Philippine First Couple inside for the signing of the guest book.

Ms Macapagal and Roh then proceeded to the receiving room for their meeting.

Leaders' exchange

Ms Macapagal expressed thanks for being invited as Roh's first state guest. She also congratulated Roh for his state visit to the United States in May, which was quickly followed by her own.

"You and I met [US] President [George W.] Bush just a few days from each other, and this shows how important our region is to the power centers of the world," Ms Macapagal told her host.

She also pledged the Philippines' support to multilateral efforts to resolve the issue of North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons programs. *(See story on Page A1.)*

In response, Roh expressed gratitude to the Philippine government for its concern over North Korea, as well as its assistance in facilitating the travel of defectors from the Stalinist state.

The two leaders shook hands across a large wooden table, stretching to do so for the benefit of the cameras.

"It's like crossing the South China Sea," Ms Macapagal joked, eliciting laughter from those present.

Roh said that up to late Monday night, he was still "studying manuals [regarding state visits], checking pictures."

"I don't think I had a perfect score today," he bantered.

A Philippine Embassy official later noted that Roh "looked pleased and did not appear awkward."

"For him, this is something new. Look at the way he smiled," the official said.

RP commits to help solve North Korean nuke crisis

From page A1

Macapagal told South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun that she had directed Foreign Secretary Blas Ople to author a resolution that would "seek the support of other Asean members for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Afable said the Ople resolution would be presented to the foreign ministers of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations at a meeting scheduled in the third week of this month.

Through dialogue

In a joint statement released after their meeting at the Blue House, the two leaders said they recognized that the "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue are essential to the peace not only of Northeast Asia but of the world."

"The Philippine side supported President Roh Moo-hyun's policy for peace and prosperity, and made clear that the Philippines will also cooperate fully in this regard," the statement said.

"The President said one of the reasons the Philippines is leading this initiative is it is geographically the nearest Asean country to Korea," said Afable, who was present at the Blue House meeting.

He said the two leaders agreed on two principles—dialogue and peaceful means—in resolving the issue, and on three strategic approaches—international pressure on, security guarantees for and economic assistance to North Korea.

In a speech later before major business organizations at the Seoul Hilton Hotel, Ms Macapagal said the Philippines was "prepared to do [its] part to resolve this issue."

Peaceful solution

"We support President Roh in his efforts to find a peaceful solution to the North Korean crisis," she said.

The United States, the principal military ally of both the Philippines and South Korea, is at the forefront of efforts to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons.

The reclusive Stalinist state has a working missile program that it maintains through firing tests, usually in the waters of the Japan Sea.

Transnational issues

The joint statement said the two leaders agreed to "cooperate more closely on transnational issues, including terrorism and international crime."

Afable said Monday that South Korea would provide second-hand US F-5 fighter jets and fast patrol boats to boost the Philippines' campaign against terrorism.

The two leaders agreed as well to:

- "Further expand the scope of their bilateral cooperation in the fields of security, energy, and information and communication in the future."
- "Make efforts for the lowering of trade barriers and the stimulation of investment."

In her speech before Korean businessmen, Ms Macapagal noted that the Philippines was suffering from a $1.2-billion annual trade deficit with South Korea.

She said that to bridge this gap, there should be more imports of Philippine products from fruits to foundry materials like silica sand, as well as additional South Korean investments in the Philippines.

"Korean businessmen, let's do more business with each other," Ms Macapagal said.

Power plants

The Philippines and South Korea, the world's fourth biggest oil buyer, also reaffirmed a $100-million project under which a Korean company would build and operate electric power plants in the Philippines.

The South Korean commerce, industry and energy ministry said in a statement that the two countries had signed an agreement pushing forward a memorandum of understanding signed earlier.

Under the deal, the state-run power monopoly Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) would build two 50-megawatt (MW) power plants on the island of Panay, which badly needs power supplies, the statement said.

It said the two parties were expected to sign a final contract later this month.

Kepco already operates Philippine power plants with a total capacity of 1,850 MW, 14 percent of the country's power capacity, the statement said. *With a Reuters report*

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GMA lawyer goes to US to finalize Balikatan rules

From page A1

view by my office. I am sending the chief presidential legal counsel to the US to thresh out the remaining issues with the American government."

The President, in South Korea for a state visit, did not identify the remaining issues.

A US military spokesperson said Adm. Thomas Fargo, the highest ranking officer in the United States' largest area command, would inspect a small contingent of US Special Forces training the AFP in Mindanao. This will be Fargo's third visit to the Philippines in a year's time. He will be coming from a three-day visit to Sabah.

US Maj. Randy Cephus said Fargo would also meet with Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko in Zamboanga City.

As Cincpac, Fargo oversees over 300,000 US military personnel and an area of responsibility covering 43 countries.

To settle issues clearly

"There are questions about the implication of Balikatan 03-1 and the President wants to settle these issues very clearly," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters by way of explanation.

"The President just wants the TOR to meet the constitutional standards," he added.

Ms Macapagal said Cruz would work closely with defense and foreign affairs officials who are in charge of crafting the TOR.

Abu Sayyaf

The proposed exercises, to begin in the second half of the year in the province of Sulu, seek to help the ill-equipped military crush the Abu Sayyaf, the notorious bandit group.

About 1,000 US troops were deployed on Basilan island for Balikatan 02-1, but they were prohibited from joining actual combat patrols.

US forces, however, helped their Filipino counterparts track the Abu Sayyaf, leading to the rescue of American missionary Gracia Burnham and the reported death of senior rebel leader Abu Sabaya.

Gracia Burnham was one of three US citizens and a group of Filipinos abducted from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001. Her husband, Martin Burnham, died in the rescue, while Guillermo Sobero of California was beheaded shortly after the kidnapping.

Nationalist groups and some politicians have warned that US help could be a prelude to Washington's reestablishing a foothold in Asia. The country shut down two American bases in Clark and Subic in 1992.

Ms Macapagal warned yesterday, however, that the public should not "inject ideological undertones to this issue."

US President George W. Bush last month promoted the Philippines to a "major non-Nato ally" for Ms Macapagal's support for his government's global campaign against terror.

Ms Macapagal later said the United States had promised $356 million in security-related assistance, with $47 million allocated to the Balikatan exercises this year. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AFP*

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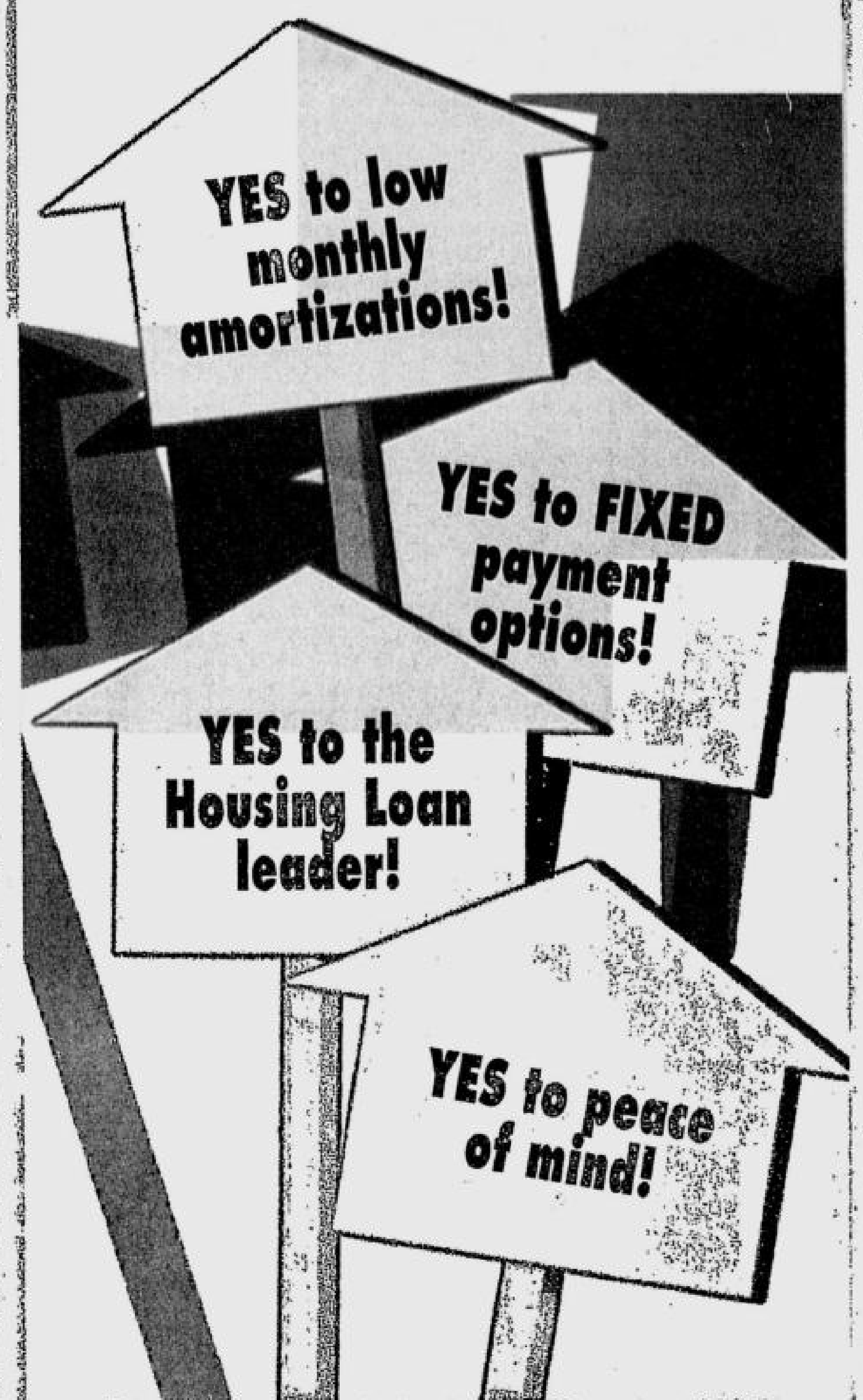
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Did Dante Tan buy Australian citizenship?

From page A1

Dante Tan donated A$10,000 (UU$6,500) to Ruddock's Liberal Party reelection fund in 2001, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

Tan has the same birth date as Dante T. Tan, owner of BW Resources Corp., a listed company involved in the biggest stock scandal in the Philippines. Tan has been charged with violating the Revised Securities Act before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court in the Philippines. He has three arrest warrants.

Although the Department of Justice in Manila had issued a hold departure order on Tan, the businessman was able to leave the Philippines.

Ruddock said Tuesday he had ordered inquiries into a report that a donation was made to his reelection fund.

The Sydney Morning Herald said documents filed at the Australian Electoral Commission showed that Tan made the contribution to Ruddock's electoral campaign in October 2001, just before the election.

The donation was reported to have been channeled through the business address of a prominent Lebanese businessman, Karim Kisrwani, who is already at the center of another political donation controversy.

Dante T. Tan and Kisrwani share directorships of two companies.

Kisrwani told the paper that Tan was "a millionaire businessman" and gambler who had been living at the Crown Casino in Melbourne.

"He wanted to make the donation and the Liberal Party told him he had to use an Australian address, so I let him use mine," Kisrwani was quoted as saying.

Middleman

Kisrwani was reported last week to have been the middleman in a donation of A$3,000 to Liberal Party election funds by a previously unsuccessful asylum seeker called Bedweny Hebeich, who was subsequently granted a refugee visa.

Ruddock said yesterday there was no link between visas being granted and political donations.

He said "many" applications crossed his desk, most raised by members of Parliament who did not reveal whether they were linked to the applicants by donations "or otherwise".

"I've got nothing to run away from," he said in a radio interview.

Ruddock said through a spokesperson that inquiries had been ordered to establish if there had been any non-disclosure of relevant information in regard to an application for citizenship by Tan and to see if he was the Dante Tan implicated in the Philippines case.

At the Question Time of the parliament yesterday, Ruddock described Tan as a business migrant from the Philippines.

But Ruddock said his department "is investigating whether Mr. Tan's statement in his citizenship application would bring him within the scope of the powers that allow deprivation of his citizenship."

"I view the character issues that have been raised in this matter seriously," he said. "On the surface it appears that he may have misled my department by his statements in his citizenship application and I have asked the department to pursue the matter vigorously."

The Philippines and Australia have an extradition treaty, which they signed on March 7, 1998. The Philippine Senate ratified it on Sept. 20, 1990.

In Manila, an official of the Department of Justice said the Philippines was preparing to ask Australia to extradite to the country the fugitive businessman.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee said that Tan's newly acquired citizenship would not prevent his being extradited to the Philippines.

"Citizenship is not a bar. Just like (Nida Blanca murder suspect Rod Lauren) Strunk, who is an American, he can be brought back here," Teehankee said. *With reports from AFP and Philip C. Tubeza*

Singapore ...

From page A1

tomatically be considered for the newly created Singapore Loo of the Year award, said Jack Sim, president of the restroom association, which developed the rating system with the health ministry.

Auditors would rate toilets on cleanliness, layout and ergonomics, Sim said. The list of criteria includes proper toilet seats and urinals for children.

Ambiance

To receive a five-star rating, a restroom has to have an specially well-designed layout so that traffic flows smoothly from the toilets to the sinks, according to Sim.

"It has to have a very good ambiance, probably with plants and pictures," Sim said. "You will know it's a five-star even without someone endorsing it."

A three-star rating will mean a toilet is regularly cleaned and restocked with toilet paper, soap and paper towels.

Restrooms that fail to meet the minimum three-star standard will receive no rating.

Plaques bearing star ratings will be posted outside many of Singapore's 70,000 public toilets, which are found in food courts, shopping centers, industrial buildings and military barracks.

"We came up with this program because today when you go to a public toilet you do not know what to expect inside," Sim said. "Sometimes you are very happy, but sometimes you are very shocked—disgusted."

"When toilets are clean, people are happy and healthy," he added.

Sim said the private sector and the government's National Environment Agency would share the cost of the campaign, which was expected to reach at least S$100,000 ($57,800).

He said the recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) had made it easier to seek funding because the disease had raised awareness about the importance of good hygiene.

"With SARS, the program suddenly became more important," he said. AFP, AP

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'Nardong Putik' mired in landgrab dispute

From page A1

Jose Bautista in real life, denied any wrongdoing. Daughter Andrea Bautista said: "Definitely, we're not land-grabbers."

"There's no truth to that (accusation), and even the tenants (occupying the property) know that."

Bautista pointed out that her family owned the land.

"I hope this is just a mistake because in the first place, the property is ours," she repeatedly told the INQUIRER when contacted through her cellular phone last night.

Coffee farm

The 25-hectare property is planted mainly to coffee, as shown in a tax declaration under Revilla's real name. Other crops are also grown in the area, such as pineapple, banana, coconut, palay, string beans, and papaya.

But Garcia said he suspected that Revilla planned to convert the land to other uses, such as a residential subdivision or a golf course, since the area is situated near the Tagaytay Highlands.

Garcia said his group heard reports that Revilla planned to develop the area into a "Senator's Village."

"Unfortunately, instead of defending our rights to the land, Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer Amelita Rolle is siding with Revilla," Garcia said.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the Cabangaan case proved that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which turns 15 years old on June 10, was "inutile."

The KMP challenged the Department of Agrarian Reform to intervene in the Cabangaan land dispute and uphold the rights of the actual tillers of the land.

Purchase agreement

According to the KMP, Revilla bought the land sometime between 1970 and 1973 from landowner Emiliano Asuncion. At that time, the estate measured only 19 hectares and had seven tenant families "absorbed" by Revilla under the purchase agreement with Asuncion.

NARDONG PUTIK
STRIKES BACK!!!!
NARDONG
JOAN BONDOC

PEASANT groups hold up posters of Sen. Ramon Revilla during a press conference in Quezon City on Tuesday. They claim the senator is forcing more than 37 families to vacate the land they had tilled all their lives within six months.

In the early 1990s, Revilla purchased 6 hectares from Alejandro Tibayan and two from Eva Benitez adjacent to his property.

Revilla built a ranch on the eight-hectare addition, and a mansion. Here, Revilla kept his stock of fighting cocks, ostriches, peacocks, imported birds, deer, and horses.

In 1991, the KMP said, Revilla began collecting "fixed rental" from the tenants amounting P1,500 per hectare per year. It was also at this time that the farmers started borrowing from Revilla to improve production; they paid interest of four cans of coffee for every P1,000 borrowed.

In 1995, the KMP said, Revilla ordered a stop to the collection of the fixed rentals from the farmers as he no longer needed the money. Because farmers still honored their obligation to pay taxes and interests on loans, however, they continued remitting part of their harvest to Revilla.

Meeting with farmers

Last May 10, some 20 farmers met with Revilla at his mansion inside the estate. There, the farmers said, the senator reportedly showed them a prepared document which asked them to agree to vacate the land in six months or anytime Revilla would need the land.

Previously, Garcia said, Revilla had informed the farmers through his lawyers that he intended to use the land and thus the farmers had to leave.

During the meeting, Garcia said he asked Revilla if the farmers could be given a week to study the agreement, and also if the farmers could be given a duplicate copy of the agreement.

To this, Garcia claimed, Revilla replied, in Filipino: "Are you going against me? Do you know who you are up against? I'm the third most powerful (person) in the whole of the Philippines! ("Di n'yo ba alam na ako ang pangatlong pinakamataas sa buong Pilipinas?")

"Maybe you want me to charge you for illegal squatting. I could finish this fight in less than a month!," Garcia quoted Revilla as saying. Revilla stressed that his land was not covered by CARP, Garcia added.

But Andrea Bautista had a different recollection of the meeting.

She said she had not wanted her father to meet with the farmers. "He had a mild stroke, so I (didn't) want him to leave. But he insisted, saying 'I need to go to the meeting to be able to talk to the (tenants)'."

"I was informed later that the meeting went on smoothly," Bautista told the INQUIRER. "There was no problem whatsoever. I think they already have an agreement."

GMA, senators scoff at impeachment rap

From page A1

ular uprising that toppled Estrada in January 2001. Besides Davide, the others who were named in the complaint were Artemio Panganiban, Josue Bellosillo, Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Reynato Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing and Jose Vitug.

The complaint was endorsed by at least three congressmen—Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora—all known Estrada supporters.

But Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan claimed that the Estrada camp was already "estopped" (blocked) from questioning the authority of the Supreme Court. Pangilinan chairs the Senate committee on justice and human rights, and is also the lone Senate representative to the Judicial and Bar Council.

"The Estrada camp itself recognized the legitimacy and the authority of the SC when it asked the high tribunal three times in 2001 to decide on the constitutionality of the Macapagal government," he said.

"If they (Estrada and his supporters) did not recognize the authority of the high court, why did they ask it to rule on the issue in the first place?" Pangilinan asked.

Doctrine of estoppel

Under the doctrine of estoppel, a litigant who acknowledged the authority of the court by asking it to rule on an issue "can't turn around just because the court did not rule on his or her favor," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the impeachment complaint was a non-issue, and was aimed only at discrediting the justices and the court they represent.

He said Congress should address more pressing concerns. "The timing of the complaint is also suspect. The former President is clearly backing the candidacy of some politicians who wish to run for public office next year," Magsaysay said.

Sen. Joker P. Arroyo reminded his colleagues in the Senate not to jump the gun on their counterparts in the House by commenting on the complaint.

"Let the House do what it has to do. The Senate should refrain from doing anything because (senators) will pass judgment on this, if at all it reaches the Senate. (But) it has to pass the House first," said Arroyo, who acted as a House prosecutor during the impeachment of Estrada.

If the complaint is supported by 77 or 78 members of the House, it will be transmitted to the Senate.

Constitutional crisis

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales warned that a constitutional crisis would arise should Congress impeach the eight Supreme Court justices.

"The eight make up majority of the Supreme Court. There will be no Supreme Court," he told the INQUIRER.

"If there is a constitutional crisis, even the stability of the country will be affected as anarchy will reign because it will invite a military coup," he said.

In any case, he said the House committee on justice could only take on the impeachment case again when Congress reopens in late July.

A Supreme Court official said the impeachment complaint would not prosper because it was based solely on the admission made by Panganiban, who said Davide relied on passages of the Bible in deciding the fate of Estrada.

The official, who asked not to be named, pointed out that Panganiban, along with Davide, had inhibited from the SC ruling recognizing the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

He said both Panganiban and Davide recused themselves from the deliberations, and final decision on the case.

Thus, any allegation of conspiracy on the part of the SC justices had been demolished by this fact, according to the official.

"It is also important to stress that the remaining 13 associate justices, including the Estrada-appointed justices, unanimously thrashed Estrada's arguments," the official said.

He also pointed out that the SC twice upheld the legitimacy of the ascension of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency in January 2001.

He was referring to the March 2, 2001 SC decision favorable to Ms Macapagal, which was subsequently upheld on April 3.

"In the two instances, the SC vote was 13-0," the official said. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

An Open Letter to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
From Representative Herminio G. Teves

A REAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF A SAGGING ECONOMY

Madame President:

We write to push our proposal for the creation of a Presidential Task Force on Revenue Projection and Collection as a solution to government's declining revenue collections, chronic budget deficits and excessive borrowing. The creation of the task force would serve as a testament to presidential commitment to, and political will in, generating and relying on internal sources of revenue to finance the country's development programs and government operations.

The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased yearly by an average of 3.7% from 1997 to 2002. Sadly, our revenue effort, or the ratio of revenues to GDP, decreased continuously from 18.7% in 1997 to only 14.6% in 2001. In contrast, Indonesia increased its revenue effort from 17.9% to 20.3% over the same period, and Vietnam, from 20.9% to 21.2%.

Reducing government dependence on borrowing

Government has been resorting to the convenient solution of borrowing to finance the budget and the deficit. This over-dependence on borrowing has mired us deeper in debt. Government's total outstanding public debt has already reached P3.5 trillion.

Between 2002 and 2003, we appropriated P191.93 billion and P223.23 billion, respectively, for interest payments alone on the government debt. Payments for maturing loans, which are not covered by general appropriations, amounted to P168.10 billion in 2002 and P188.23 billion in 2003. The burden of servicing the public debt has been crowding out essential expenditures for food security, irrigation facilities and other vital programs and projects meant to alleviate poverty.

Madame President, we should put a stop to borrowing, or we could end up eventually defaulting on our debt obligations. We cannot afford a financial crisis similar to what happened in Argentina.

A balanced budget has become imperative

The country's chief executives since the time of President Manuel Roxas had repeatedly professed their desire to achieve a balanced budget. However, no administration has ever succeeded in achieving this goal because of the lack of focus and resolve in improving revenue collections.

Sadly, the current administration's economic team has also failed to muster the will to push bold initiatives in achieving a balanced budget. Finance Secretary Lito Camacho says that we can have a balanced budget by 2006. However, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, at the same time, contends that this would only be possible by 2010.

Thus far, no clear and deliberate strategies have been spelled out to achieve a balanced budget. There are no studies on our projected levels of indebtedness by 2006, or by 2010. Truth of the matter is, there is no way we can achieve a balanced budget if our strategy is simply to borrow more to finance the budget and the deficit.

Madame President, we are convinced the only option left if for us is to quickly focus on improving revenue collections if we are to sustain the delivery of vital public services without putting at grave risk the nation's future.

Improving revenue collections: The neglected but sustainable and viable solution

Improving revenue collections ensures the long-term viability of government's financial position. Enough revenues can be mobilized to ensure a balanced budget if government demonstrates enough political will and employs its ample powers in improving collection efficiency.

Tax experts, including those from International Monetary Fund, say that we merely collect 60% of potential revenues. In fact, we have one of the lowest revenue efforts in Asia today.

We have to increase our revenue effort from 14.9% to 18.9% GDP in order to achieve a balanced budget and at the same time ensure the delivery of essential public services. Viable solutions are always available.

Congressional proposals to improve government revenues

Bold and imaginative measures that are fairly easy for government to execute have been put forward to address deteriorating revenue collections.

In the 10th and 11th Congress, tax benchmarking per industry by players was proposed. After several years, it is only now that benchmarking is actually being implemented.

Another measure approved by the House and now pending in the Senate, seeks to promote absolute transparency in tax accounting. An effective shame mechanism — the publication of all tax accounts — seeks to compel all corporations and individuals to religiously pay their dues to society. The bill seeks to repeal the Internal Revenue Code provision on the secrecy and confidentiality of tax accounts, which has merely served to protect the rich and affluent. At present, even the Commission on Audit is prohibited from auditing collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

By proposing to put in black and white all tax accounts, the bill seeks to totally discourage evasion and collusion between tax examiners and taxpayers in under-reporting their income and tax obligations. Until now, the Senate has yet to act on the bill.

The 11th Congress approved the proposed Lateral Attrition Law, which sought to establish a carrot and stick system for revenue officers in order to compel them to improve collections. Sadly, the administration vetoed the bill.

We have also filed a bill seeking to sell all disposable public lands through a bold homelots distribution program. Under the bill, government stands to earn at least P40 billion in new revenue, while affording thousands of marginal families the chance to finally own lots on which they can build their homes. The positive impact on government's socialized housing program, and the multiplier effect on the economy, will be massive.

We likewise introduced a bill seeking to revoke the value added tax (VAT) zero-rated privilege being enjoyed by independent power producers (IPPs) under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA). Government simply cannot afford the foregone revenue, at P6 billion annually. More important, the grant of the tax privilege was illegal and unconstitutional from the start. It did not emanate from the House. The bicameral conference committee on the EPIRA surreptitiously inserted the privilege. House leaders have yet to consider the urgency of our bill up to now.

The Presidency must take an active role in improving revenue collections

We are aware that the Development Budget Co-ordinating Committee has a task force on revenue projection chaired by the finance secretary. However, the task force has failed to undertake 1) a thorough study on potential revenues per tax system and 2) a careful audit of actual revenue collections against potential collections.

The proposed Presidential Task Force on Revenue Collection and Projection can come up with realistic revenue projections based on data from the National Statistics Office (NSO), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), among other agencies.

The task force should enlist the help of local government units (LGUs) in systematically gathering data needed to boost (national government) tax collections in their areas. LGUs will readily help since they get 40% of all internal revenue collections. The President's direct involvement in the task force will also inspire LGUs to cooperate fully.

By using data from the NSO, we reckon that government stands to collect up to P189 billion annually in individual income taxes alone, compared to actual collections of only P77 billion. NSO statistics on family income and expenditure are available for each city and province. It would be fairly easy for revenue district officers to project potential individual income tax collections in their areas.

Data from the SEC, DTI, DOTC, PPA, SRA and other agencies should also help provide accurate and realistic estimates of potential VAT, corporate income tax and percentage tax collections.

These studies of revenue potentials per type of tax will go a long way in benchmarking and in strictly monitoring the collection performance of each revenue district.

Madame President, while revenues are essential to the survival and effectiveness of government, the matter of improving collections has not been accorded the highest priority. Perhaps, this is where your administration can leave a lasting legacy — in the remaining 14 months of your term.

Other equally important revenue generating concerns

Madame President, it has also become imperative for government to minimize the erosion of revenues due to tariff rate reductions arising from our commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)-World Trade Organization. Tariff revenues decreased from P83.12 billion in 1997 to P59.48 billion in 2002. We have to re-evaluate whether or not the impact of tariff reductions and foregone revenues has been commensurate to the supposed national economic benefits of trade liberalisation.

In addition, your Excellency recently obtained over $4 billion worth of assistance from the United States. We propose that some of the funds be used to boost the capabilities of the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Coast Guard in fighting rampant smuggling via the country's regular ports and coastlines. The acquisition of amphibian planes and other modern anti-smuggling technologies and facilities should be supported.

We are convinced there is no need for new tax legislation in order to boost revenue collections. Increasing collection efficiency to 90% of the revenue potential would be enough to allow us to achieve a balanced budget as early as next year.

Thank you, Madame President.

ADVT.

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ANTI-DRUG DRIVE

Candidates, movie stars next targets

By Alcuin Papa

ELECTORAL candidates and movie stars are the next targets of the Department of Interior Local Government's campaign against illegal drugs.

DILG Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said candidates in local and national elections from the president down to barangay officials, show biz personalities from lowly bit players to superstars, high school and college students, and private and government employees would be subjected to mandatory drug tests starting June 6.

Lina, who is also chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, said the drug tests were in compliance with the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo to intensify the drive against illegal drugs.

The President has already released P1 billion to fund the anti-drug campaign, Lina said.

The DILG is now coordinating with the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Employment, local government units, the National Youth Commission and other relevant government agencies to enforce the mandatory drug tests.

But the militant group of government employees called Courage and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers criticized the move, saying high-ranking government officials must also submit to drug tests.

Courage chair Ferdinand Gaite told reporters that ranking government officials can afford to buy illegal drugs.

ACT head Danny Arao also said the aim of the drug tests was noteworthy but the enforcement of the tests must be applied to all.

Fernando: We'll cut...

From page A24

When trees on roads get old, he explained, they cause more damage and will be harder and more expensive to remove. A mature tree can cost P50,000 to transfer.

Among the roads to be cleared of trees would be Quezon Avenue, where the MMDA would demolish portions of the center islands to make way for U-turn slots.

Fernando also said the trees would have to give way to road widening projects because of the growing population of Metro Manila and the worsening traffic situation.

The MMDA head revealed the agency's tree-clearing plans as he practically mowed down hopes of residents along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City that the trees there could still be saved.

Leila B. Salaverria

Widow charged ...

From page A24

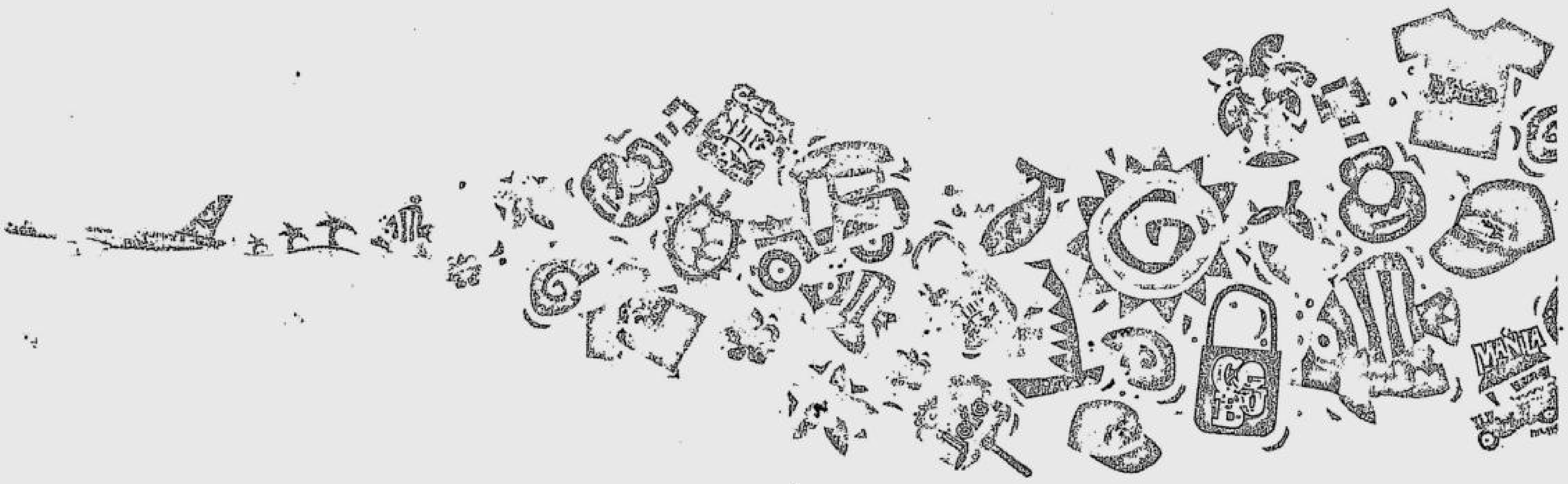
the tests but the police said it was too late since it was already beyond the 72-hour period required for parrafin testing.

Their son, Artemio, tested negative for powder burns. He asked probers to look into the possible involvement of the Yakuza in the killing.

Leading food suppliers at trade show

THE WORLD'S Finest Foods Trade Show at the Hotel Intercontinental, which ends today, features wine and cheese from Australia, kiwi fruits and dairy products from New Zealand, mutton and beef from Canada, and ready-to-eat food products from the United States.

The embassies of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US are organizing the show.



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METROBRIEFS

PNR employees call off hunger strike

STRIKING Philippine National Railways (PNR) employees have called off their scheduled hunger strike after reaching an agreement with the PNR Board. "The PNR Board has finally decided to hear us out," Edgar Bilayon, head of the Bagong Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa PNR, told the INQUIRER.. The union leader said the Civil Service Commission brokered the agreement. The striking employees have accused the PNR management of not remitting P900 million in life and retirement premiums to the GSIS. The management maintains that the company is bankrupt. *Luige del Puerto*

Security officer is rob suspect

QUEZON City policemen have arrested a supervisor of a security agency in connection with the robbery in March of the payroll of the Philippine Astronomical, Geophysical, Atmospheric Services Administration. Chief Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District said the suspect, Ike Lozada who works for the Mobile Security Agency, was a member of the Ilongo-Waray gang. Following a tip, CPD operatives collared Lozada at around 7 p.m. last Friday in Oranbo, Pasig City. According to the police, Lozada has been identified by witnesses as one of the suspects who took the payroll at gunpoint along Quezon Avenue. *Alcuin Papa*

P100,000 for killer of 9-year-old girl

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is offering a P100,000 reward to anyone who can provide information on the killer of a 9-year-old girl whose body was found inside the MWSS compound in Balara, Quezon City, on Jan. 4. MWSS director lawyer Jay de Castro told reporters that the board had approved the release of the reward from their funds. The girl, who was raped before she was killed, was last seen on Dec. 14 during a *tiangge* (flea market) at the compound. Her parents reported her missing the following day. *Alcuin Papa*

Pregnant woman in theft tries suicide

A FIVE-MONTH-PREGNANT woman who was detained for shoplifting at a Quezon City department store tried to kill herself Sunday night. Eva Artita, 34, of Block 2, Lot 2, Erap City, Rodriguez, Rizal, has been taken to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center for treatment. Artita was arrested earlier that day at around 12:55 p.m. while allegedly stealing clothes from the SM department store in Cubao. At around 9 p.m., fellow detainees at the Central Police District Station 7 screamed for help after Artita slashed her left wrist. *Alcuin Papa*

STREET DIP
Streetchildren take a dip by the side of a road that is under construction in Makati City.
AFP PHOTO

Police eye love angle in slay of director, companion

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE are now looking for a house companion of musical director Danny Holmsen, who was killed in his apartment in Quezon City on Monday.

Holmsen, 72, a musical director and composer of Sampaguita Pictures, and another companion Norman Abarte, 24, a writer of PM tabloid, were found dead on Monday at around 3 p.m. inside Holmsen's apartment on Harvard Street, Barangay Socorro, Cubao, Quezon City.

Members of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit said that they are now looking for Holmsen's other house companion, identified only as "Jerry Bisaya."

The suspect has since disappeared, police said.

Police are looking into the possibility that a love triangle had formed between the victims and the suspect. Police said this might have led to the killing of Holmsen and Abarte.

Investigators have visited a house where Jerry used to stay but have not located the suspect. They are continuing with the investigation and have come up with a sketch of the suspect.

Police said Holmsen's uncle, Inocentes Dalit, 82, a retired member of the United States Army, found Abarte's body at the foot of the stairs when he went to Holmsen's apartment Monday afternoon. Dalit found Holmsen's body inside the master's bedroom on the ground floor.

Police said Holmsen sustained head injuries resulting from blows inflicted with a hard object. Abarte, on the other hand, was stabbed in the neck and chest.

Police also said an undetermined amount of cash and a Nokia 3210 cell phone were missing from Holmsen's apartment.

Investigators believed that Holmsen, whose body was already in rigor mortis, could have been killed as early as midnight Sunday. Neighbors of the victims told police that they had heard voices of men screaming and loud noise inside the apartment Sunday night.

3rd man dies from fake gin

By Tina Santos

A THIRD man was reported to have died after drinking fake gin along with six other men in Malabon City last week.

Gerry Gonzales, Public Order and Safety Office chief and information officer, said Nicanor Amago of East Riverside, Potrero, Malabon died of alcohol poisoning on June 1 at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Gonzales learned from witnesses that Amago drank the fake gin with six other men on May 26. But for some reason, Amago's name was not included in the police or barangay report concerning the incident.

Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio yesterday warned the residents of the proliferation of fake or adulterated local gin in the city.

The mayor said he has already ordered the authorities to investigate a factory suspected of manufacturing fake liquor.

But Gonzales said the police were waiting for the results of the laboratory tests conducted by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, where at least seven bottles of gin found at the scene were sent for analysis.

A Barangay Potrero official who refused to be named said he and the barangay chair, Eduardo Nolasco, studied the liquor bottles recovered from the scene and saw that they all bore the name of a popular brand. But they also noticed that the bottles had an "adulterated" seal and brand mark.

Among Amago's drinking buddies were James Rama and Renato Consuelo, who both died of poisoning, the barangay official said.

Arman Cutura went blind after downing several glasses of gin. Two other men, Rodrigo Caniega and Melchor Calderon, are still in critical condition at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

The seventh man, David Suyon, had been sent home after receiving treatment at the JRMMC.

On May 18, five persons also succumbed to poisoned gin after a drinking session near the boundary of Malabon and Caloocan.

Ai-Ai movie causes panic in mall theater

A MOVIE starring comedian Ai-Ai de las Alas sent about 500 theatergoers into panic inside a mall in Manila yesterday after they mistook the sound effects of a bus explosion in the film and the loud noise of drills below the theater as a bomb blast.

The panicked audience of the movie "Tanging Ina" running in Cinema 12 of SM Manila said they were scared that a bomb had exploded inside the movie house at 2:05 p.m. yesterday.

But mall security guards and theater ushers made light of the incident, saying that the bomb blast was a false alarm.

"*Kwitis lang yun sa pelikula* (It was just a small firecracker exploding in the film)," a security guard told reporters.

"It didn't help that somebody in the audience shouted 'bomba,' which naturally left people panicking and hurrying out of the theater," said Ricardo Rivera, Cinema 12 usher.

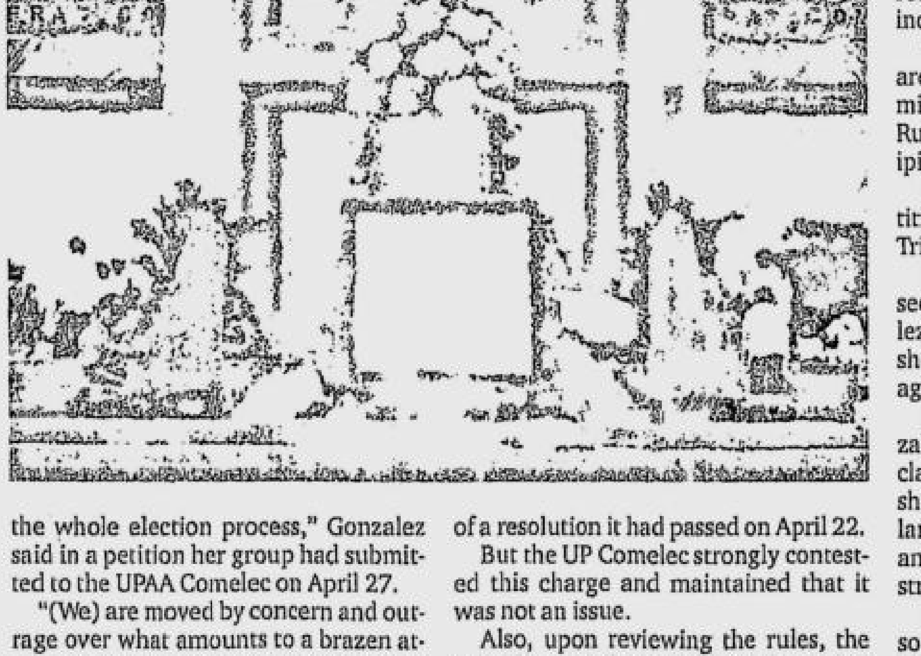
An official of the SM Security Office said members of the bomb squad did not push through with the inspection after learning the source of the ruckus.

"Cinema 12 did not stop operating for one minute," the official said. "The film went on."

According to SM Security guard Manolito Ramos, the Rusty Lopez shoe store below the cinema floor was undergoing construction and the loud noise heard inside Cinema 12 came from the store, SPO2 Eduardo Malihan said. *Margaux Ortiz*

UP alumni in an uproar over poll mess

By Agnes Donato



EVER critical of the way national elections are held, the University of the Philippines community is now facing a polls-related controversy of its own.

A group of UP alumni, headed by former Assistant Minister of Agriculture Nelia Gonzalez, has accused its rival party of trying to rig this year's UP Alumni Association elections.

Gonzalez's so-called "Group 21" is running opposite another party, which allegedly controls the incumbent alumni association and is composed of members of the influential Upsilon Fraternity.

The chair and another member of the three-person Commission on Elections (Comelec) belong to the Upsilon Fraternity, Gonzalez claimed.

On April 15, the deadline for registration of votes, the group of Gonzalez brought envelopes with names, payments, application letters and authorization letters to register the prospective voters. But the group of lawyer Domingo Santiago submitted at the last minute two envelopes containing only the names of the alumni and their payments.

Gonzalez questioned the inclusion of Santiago's list of 4,203 voters, which she claimed was submitted late, but for which the incumbent group allegedly paid over P500,000 in membership fees.

She maintained that the persons in the list should not be allowed to cast votes, as the list did not contain the required details such as addresses, colleges or degrees earned from the university, nor the signatures of the persons in the list.

She added that the list even included names of several deceased persons and others whose ballots had already been obtained from the UPAA Secretariat by other persons.

"The submission of names without application and/or authorization forms is an attempt to pad the number of voters for one of the contending groups and would clearly make a mockery of the whole election process," Gonzalez said in a petition her group had submitted to the UPAA Comelec on April 27.

"(We) are moved by concern and outrage over what amounts to a brazen attempt to steal the elections in an association which, because it carries UP's good name, would dishonor the institution we all love. There is also the additional concern that this ... could be a dangerous precedent in the future UP elections, for who could prevent any group from doing the same thing?"

The Group of 21 also accused the Comelec of "partisan decision" after the latter dismissed the petition on the basis of a resolution it had passed on April 22.

But the UP Comelec strongly contested this charge and maintained that it was not an issue.

Also, upon reviewing the rules, the Comelec members decided that what makes UP graduates eligible to vote is that one is a graduate of UP and he or she has paid dues worth P100 annual fee or P1,000 lifetime membership on or before April 15 this year.

According to Victor Avecilla, a member of the UP Comelec and a professor of broadcast communications, the main problem is that the system is open to various interpretations.

Avecilla said that the rules did not indicate whether a graduate is required to submit an authorization letter or an application form to register as a voter.

It was also because of this ambiguity that the Comelec promulgated on Feb. 14 additional rules that would govern the conduct of elections.

The rule, Avecilla said, was promulgated even before Gonzalez's group had questioned the validity of the envelopes.

Avecilla said that one can be registered as a voter by other people even without his consent, but no one else but the graduate can withdraw or get his ballot without his authorization.

According to Avecilla, the UPAA Secretariat verifies if the registered voter is indeed an alumnus of the university.

The other members of the Comelec are Napoleon Vergara, chair of the committee and professor at the UPLB and Ruby Alcantara, a professor of the Filipino Department at UP Diliman.

On May 27, both parties had filed petitions before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 221.

Santiago's group filed a petition seeking the disqualification of Gonzalez as a candidate on the ground that she is past the mandatory retirement age for non-political public office.

Santiago's group also claimed Gonzalez misrepresented herself when she claimed in her campaign leaflets that she was responsible for the donation of large sums of money to the University and that the Bahay ng Alumni was constructed through her effort.

Gonzalez's group on the other hand, sought the exclusion and rejection of the contents of the two envelopes which Santiago's party submitted on April 15.

On May 30, Judge Rogelio Pizarro heard both sides and dismissed both petitions.

The judge also persuaded both parties to move the canvassing of ballots on June 16, instead of the earlier scheduled May 31. *With a report from Amy Remo*

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Widow charged with husband's killing

Money cited as motive

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE POLICE yesterday filed parricide charges against the 52-year-old widow of Japanese trader Hiromasa Murakami who was killed last month as he reportedly slept inside their Parañaque home.

Charged with Carmelita Murakami were two still unidentified assailants.

MURAKAMI

Investigators said their case against the victim's wife was based on the statement of a witness who claimed hearing Murakami say two weeks before the killing that she wanted her husband dead.

The wife was allegedly angry at Hiromasa because he was transferring all his money to their son Artemio.

Police investigators said evidence at the crime scene also cast doubt on the innocence of Murakami, who said she was sleeping beside her husband when he was killed.

Scene of the crime operatives revealed that Hiromasa could not have been shot six times and stabbed repeatedly without Carmelita getting roused from sleep.

Carmelita earlier told the police that she did not see her husband's killers because she failed to wake up.

Probers said that based on the victim's bullet wounds, the gunman was standing on Murakami's side of the bed when he fired the shots. Also, one of the bullets hit that part of the bed where the woman was supposed to be sleeping on.

"Why was she not hit?" a police officer asked.

Hiromasa also had a stab wound in the armpit that could have only been inflicted with the suspect standing on Carmelita's side of the bed, crime scene probers said.

Police have said that at least two persons took part in the killing.

Investigators began doubting Murakami after she refused to submit to parrafin and lie detector tests.

The wife claimed that she initially refused to undergo the paraffin test because she had diabetes and hypertension and feared the test would affect her health.

She later changed her mind and agreed to

WIDOW/ A22

Fernando: We'll cut more trees

TREES — at least those planted in the wrong places — are bad for Metro Manila.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said this Monday as he announced that the MMDA would be cutting more trees in the metropolis in the coming days.

"Trees planted in the city can aggravate flooding," he said.

Fernando explained that trees attracted rain and their roots prevented flood water from running off.

"In the city, you don't want to hold the water. You want it to flow as fast as possible to the sea," he said.

Fernando blamed the country's schools for this "wrong notion." "I really am sad that schools have failed in this aspect," he said.

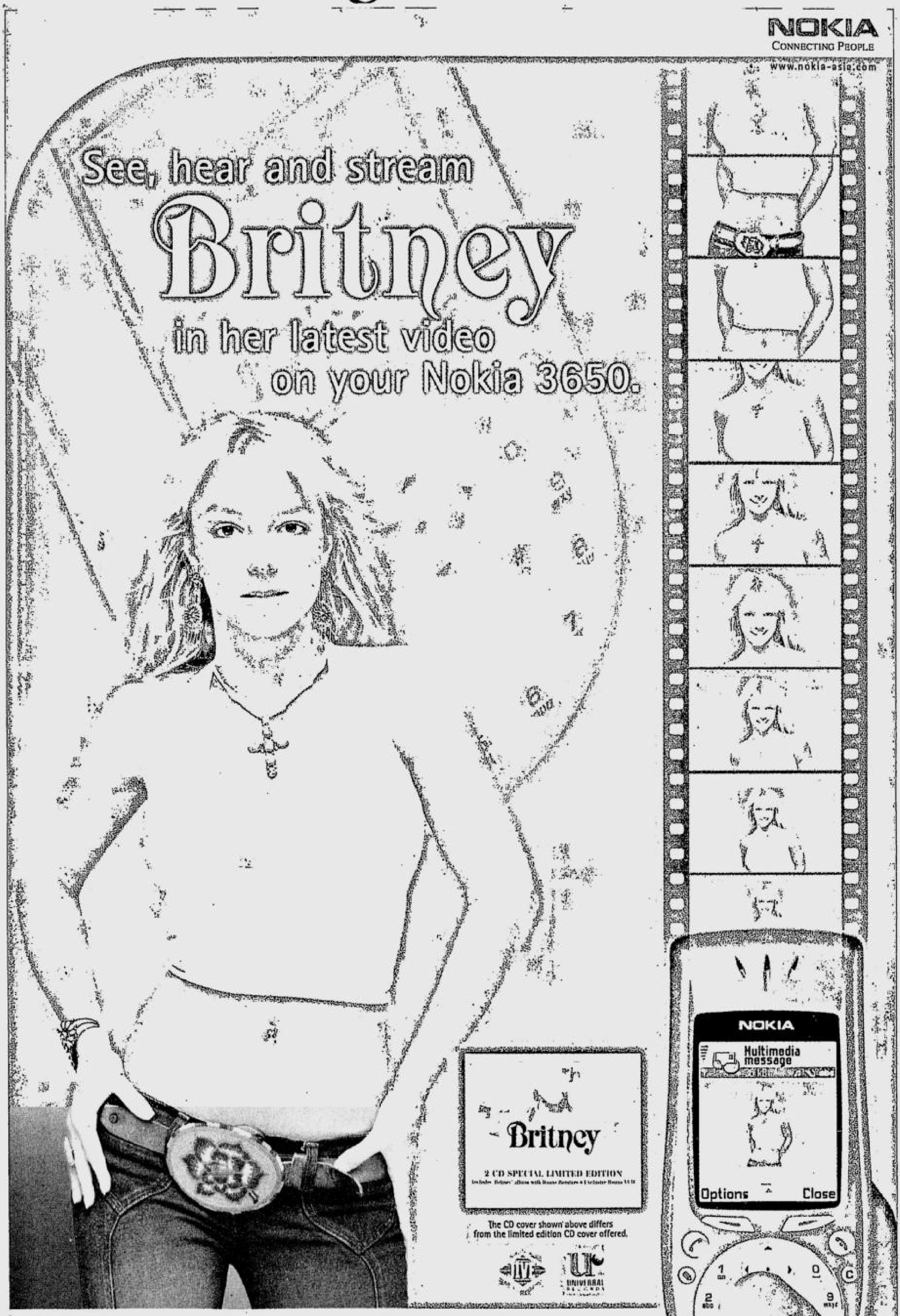
The MMDA chair clarified that he was not against the planting of trees, but that he only wanted these planted in the proper places.

"If you have to plant trees, then you have to plant them right," he said.

Should these be put on roads or islands, then these must be incorporated into the design. Otherwise, people could just plant them on private land or in the mountains.

"If they're not in the proper place, we'll remove them," he said. "We have to do something about them while they're still young."

FERNANDO/ A22



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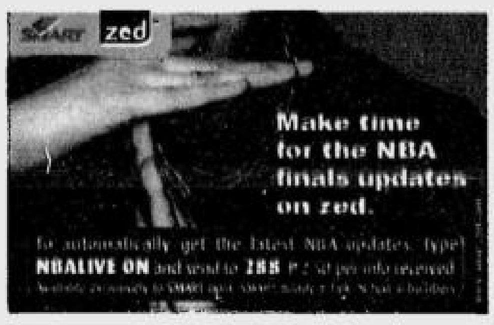

PBA defied; PNP bares new drug list

By Dennis U. Eroa and TJ Burgonio

LIMPOT

THEIR reputation in tatters, Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot and Davonn Harp of Red Bull yesterday vowed not to go into rehabilitation as they said this would be tantamount to pleading guilty of drug abuse.

As this developed, the Philippine National Police yesterday issued a new bulletin saying 14 out of 21 PBA players tested positive for use of banned substances.

Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda of the PNP Crime Laboratory said urine samples of the 21 players were submitted to the crime laboratory for confirmation after they tested positive for use of drugs during initial tests conducted by the Department of Health.

Mosqueda, however, could not reveal the owners of the urine samples which tested positive, saying these were numerically coded.

Mosqueda also brushed off speculations that chemists could tamper with the results of the confirmatory tests.

At the PSA Forum, Limpot said, "I will never go into rehab because I am innocent."

Harp echoed Limpot's position.

"No way. To do so is to admit that I am a drug user," said Harp, who described what had transpired in the PBA mandatory drug testing as both tragic and heartbreaking.

Limpot said the recent turn of events has affected not only himself but his family as well.

"I feel like a criminal. I don't even have a nightlife, I select my friends and I eat camote for supplements," Limpot said.

He added: "This is the biggest challenge in my life and I am con-

PBA/ A26

POC, PSC fight over Team Philippines

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIRST, the country's two premier sports agencies offered contrasting projections on the expected Philippine finish in this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Yesterday, it was learned that the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission are engaged in a tug-of-war over the use of the phrase Team Philippines.

Both powerful bodies want exclusive rights over the catch phrase.

The PSC, sources said, frowned over POC's move to patent Team Philippines for its exclusive use to gather sponsors for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

The PSC, as an in-house marketing arm, drums up corporate support to augment the agency's deceased allocation from the General Appropriations Act and the Presidential Social Fund.

However, the POC, which hired the International Management Group to generate sponsor funds, recently placed a newspaper advertisement claiming exclusive rights over Team Philippines.

But the PSC cried foul, especially since it is the government body which is financing the campaign of the Philippine delegation starting from preparation to actual competition.

The PSC is set to spend P40 million for the airfare and accommodation of the expected 500 athletes and officials going to Vietnam.

Said amount is apart from the funds rolled out by PSC for the SEA Games preparations which included purchase of equipment and international exposure.

The two premier sports bodies also disagree on the criteria to be used for the SEA Games with the PSC holding firm on the requirement which calls for a performance equalling a bronze mark in Busan Asian Games or a silver in Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

This developed as Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella warned the POC and the PSC to stand by their respective predictions of the SEAG outcome.

He said whatever happens in the December SEAG will be a yardstick of the capability of Dayrit and Buhain as sports leaders.

Dayrit said the country might place fourth overall, while Buhain predicted a third-place finish.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Kuerten falls at French Open /A28

■ Speedy Parker awaits NJ Nets /A26
■ Kings, Thunder resume bids /A26
■ Hapee, Viva seal showdown /A27

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Gin Kings, Thunder resume bids sans Limpot, Harp

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:00 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N' Text

WHILE Jun Limpot and Davonn Harp maintain they're clean, Barangay Ginebra and Batang Red Bull will have to make do without them when the Samsung-PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinal round starts today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The high-scoring Limpot will be sorely missed by the Gin Kings when they tackle the Coca-Cola Tigers in the opening game at 5 p.m.

The Thunder will be just as hard-pressed without power forward Harp when they collide with the Talk N Text Phone Pals at 7:30 p.m.

The four teams go through a single round to decide the top two teams that will advance to the semifinals where they will be joined by the other top two squads from the second group made up of San Miguel Beer, FedEx, Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska.

All teams start from scratch and because of the new format, the loss of key personnel is expected to weigh heavily on Batang Red Bull and Ginebra.

Harp and Limpot were among six players named by Commissioner Noli Eala last week as having tested positive for banned substances in line with the league's drive to clean the PBA of drug cheats.

The two continued to maintain their innocence, but they will remain indefinitely suspended until they are cleared. And as things stand, they will likely miss the rest of the series. *(See related story on A25)*

Compounding Red Bull's predicament was the earlier loss of ace point guard Jim Torion, who tested positive for illegal drugs and later admitted he took shabu.

While Ginebra proved it can survive without Alex Crisano, the fourth player who failed the drug test after Torion, the Gin Kings have no reliable replacement for Limpot. *June Navarro*

'Hopefully, it'll be sunny for us in SA'

Kidd & Co. fly to Texas

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—In a few hours, they would get on a plane for Texas and a second shot at an NBA championship after being swept by the Los Angeles Lakers in the finals a year ago.

So what were the New Jersey Nets talking about at practice Monday morning?

"The weather," answered Jason Kidd.

"We finally got some sun. We've got a great group of guys; they know how to keep it loose. That was the topic this morning. The sun always seems to come out when we go out on the road. Hopefully, it'll be sunny for us in San Antonio."

To a man, the Nets are a loose, confident group as they enter the finals a decided underdog to the Spurs. The experience of getting there last year, only to be crushed by Shaq & Co., was a necessary building block, they say now.

"Last year we were happy to get to this point," said forward Kenyon Martin. "Now we want to win this thing. There's a lot more confidence than there was last year. We have a good shot this year."

Martin typified the Nets' loose mood Monday, sparring good-naturedly with reporters, feigning indifference to his impending matchup with Tim Duncan and playfully deriding a shorter teammate.

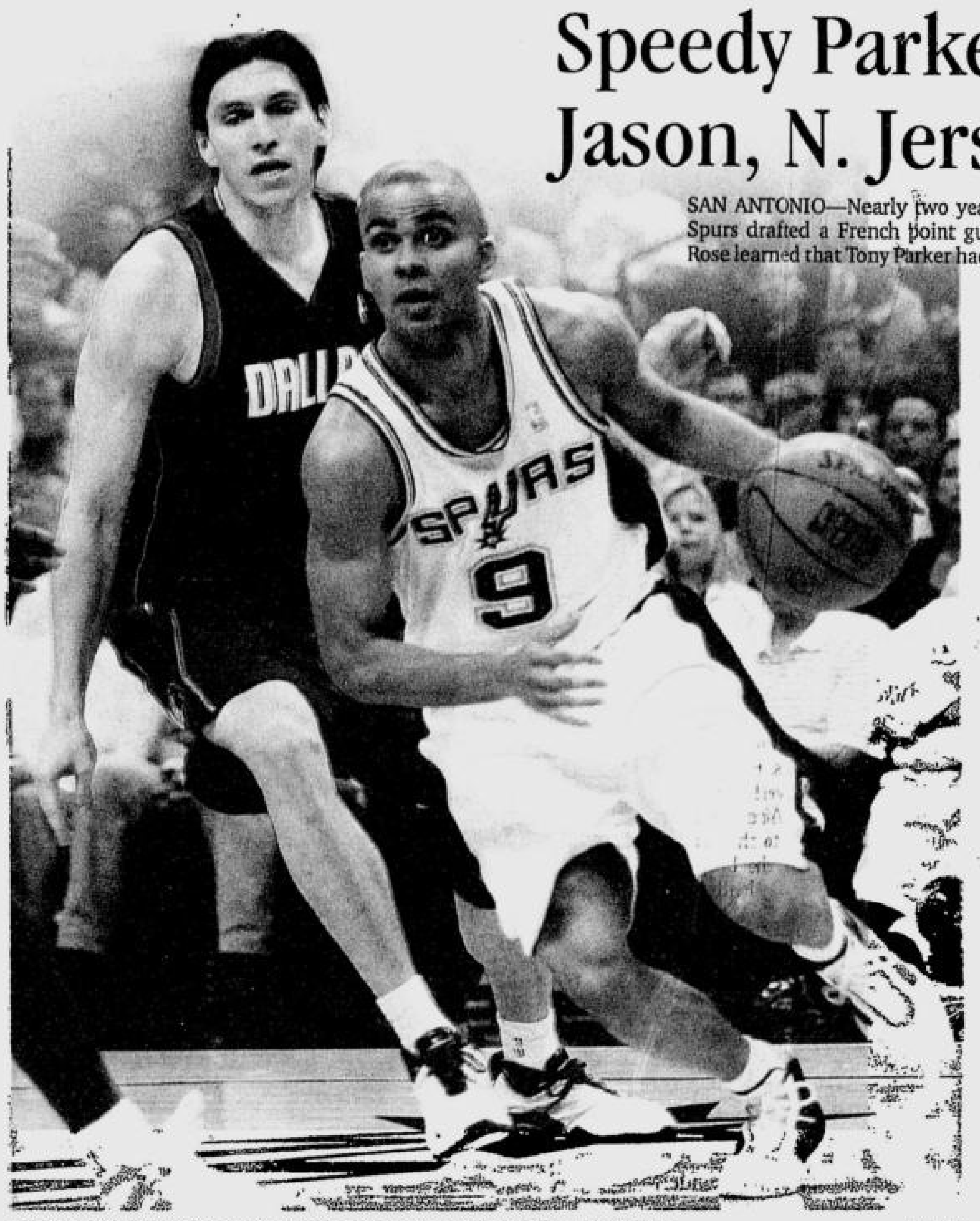
Coach Byron Scott shot a few baseline jumpers–missing most of them–before meeting with reporters and assuring them this team believes it can win.

"They're very upbeat, very confident," said Scott, who won an NBA title as a player with the Lakers and is seeking his first as a head coach. "We're going to be aggressive as hell. Our team is ready to play."

The last time the teams played each other in the postseason was 1976, when Julius Erving's Nets defeated George Gervin's Spurs in seven games in the ABA semifinals.

The long layoff while the Western Conference champion was decided gave the Nets time to prepare, and as Scott said, "Make sure all the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed."

"Everyone is ready to go," added forward Rodney Rogers. *AP*



PARKER (right) driving against Dallas Mavericks forward Eduardo Najera. REUTERS

Speedy Parker awaits Jason, N. Jersey Nets

SAN ANTONIO—Nearly two years ago, shortly after hearing the Spurs drafted a French point guard, San Antonio forward Malik Rose learned that Tony Parker had his own website.

A few clicks later, Rose took his first look.

"It was weird. It showed him dribbling around. It showed his weak French dunk. He barely got his fingers over the rim. Probably a 9-foot (2.7-meter) rim," Rose joked Monday.

The Spurs also rag on Parker for eating his french fries with a mixture of ketchup and mayonnaise, and for his bout of vomiting after eating a bad batch of creme brulee the night before Game 6 in Dallas.

But for all the teasing, the Spurs also give the 21-year-old Parker plenty of respect.

He will become the fourth-youngest player in NBA history to compete in the finals when San Antonio's best-of-seven series against the New Jersey Nets begins Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila). Only Jonathan Bender (19, Indiana, 2000), Darryl Dawkins (20, 1977, Philadelphia) and Magic Johnson (20, Lakers, 1980) were younger.

"It's a dream to play in the NBA Finals. Three years ago I was waking up at 3 a.m. to watch the finals, and now I'm playing in them," Parker said.

His matchup against Nets point guard Jason Kidd will be one of the keys to the upcoming series, and it comes with an intriguing subplot. The Spurs will have more than $14 million worth of salary cap space over the summer when Kidd becomes a free agent, and it's possible they will offer it to Kidd.

Will it have an effect on Parker?

"I've been asked that question 500 times, and it's not going to bother me–the comparison and the matchup with Jason Kidd," Parker said Monday.

The speedy Parker does not even expect this matchup to be his toughest of the postseason. In his opinion, no point guard is more difficult to defend than Phoenix's Stephon Marbury, whose team defeated San Antonio twice in the opening round. *AP*

Coaching vacancies down to 5

BROWN REUTERS

SAN ANTONIO—There are still plenty of NBA coaching jobs out there, and plenty of unemployed former coaches to fill them.

With Larry Brown taking over the Detroit Pistons and Paul Silas going to the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday, the list of coaching vacancies dropped to five.

The New Orleans Hornets, Philadelphia 76ers, Toronto Raptors, Washington Wizards and Houston Rockets still have openings, and former coaches Mike Fratello, Mike Dunleavy and Jeff Van Gundy are among the candidates who have interviewed for several of those jobs but have not yet been hired.

Additionally, Rick Carlisle came onto the market unexpectedly over the weekend after the Pistons fired him to make way for Brown.

"Rick will be a head coach on somebody's bench next year," Pistons president Joe Dumars said Monday.

Carlisle said he planned to speak to three teams this week while attending the NBA predraft camp in Chicago. He would not identify the teams.

Fratello on Monday pulled himself out of the running for the Hornets job, declining–through a spokesman for Turner Sports–to elaborate. Tim Floyd and Brian Hill are among the Hornets' candidates.

Both Fratello and Dunleavy have expressed an eagerness to return to the sideline, while Van Gundy has said it's a 50-50 proposition whether he'll return as a coach next season or continue to work as a television broadcaster.

Another factor that could further unsettle the leaguewide picture is Maurice Cheeks' status with the Portland Trail Blazers.

Philadelphia was denied permission to speak to Cheeks about its coaching vacancy, but some in the Sixers organization believe the Trail Blazers would rather have Carlisle as their coach. Cheeks has one year remaining, plus a team option, on his contract with Portland. *AP*

PBA defied; PNP bares new drug list

From page A25

fident that I will emerge stronger after this episode."

Limpot and Harp recently failed the mandatory drug testing being instituted by the PBA, the procedure of which has come under fire from various sectors.

Harp, Limpot, Talk N' Text's Long David and Noli Locsin, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña all flunked the drug test.

Except for Peña, who had failed a previous drug check, the five were automatically slapped indefinite suspensions and will be required to undergo a six-month rehabilitation.

Limpot's lawyer Lucille Sering, also joined the forum and said she will submit an appeal to PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Eala had stressed the only thing that could overturn the indefinite suspension of the alleged drug cheats was a re-test using the same urine sample that has a negative diagnosis. He has given Limpot and company until Friday to appeal.

Sering, Limpot's first cousin, expressed confidence that Eala will change his mind regarding Limpot's case.

"We are not entertaining thoughts that our appeal will be denied. I hope that Commissioner Eala will have an open mind. So much is at stake and my father (former athletics chief Jose Sering) is probably turning in his grave right now because Jun isn't capable of doing this thing," Sering said.

In defense, Limpot explained that a nasal drug he used to treat chronic rhinitis as the chief culprit for testing positive last May 19.

Harp, on the other hand, submitted himself to an independent test after being banned. He tested negative in that test conducted by a pathology clinic highly accredited by the Department of Health.

Sering said bringing Limpot's case to the court will be the last resort but she requested Commissioner Eala to immediately decide on their appeal.

"As I see it, this is a case of good intention with bad execution. Jun is concerned with his reputation," Sering said. "I also would like to thank Commissioner Eala for allowing us seven days to give our side."

At the House, Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the committee on dangerous drugs, has sought to investigate the extent of drug use among players in the PBA.

Cuenco said Congress should help establish the extent of the problem in the basketball league, so it could recommend "remedial" legislation and help the government's anti-drug campaign. *With a report from Christine Avendano*

MJ shot voted best

NEW YORK—Michael Jordan's last-second basket over Craig Ehlo was voted the greatest shot in NBA playoff history.

The hanging jumper at the foul line in Game 5 in the first round eliminated the Cleveland Cavaliers from the 1989 playoffs.

Jordan's shot was the choice in voting by more than 250,000 fans on the league's website.

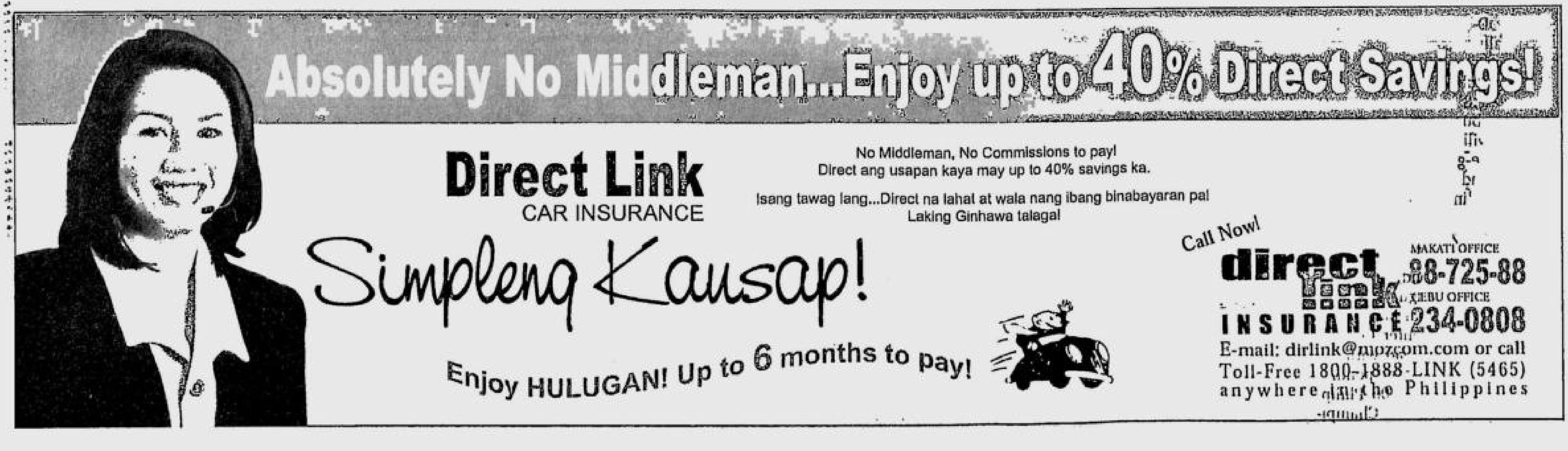
The rest of the top-five picks were shots by Robert Horry (2002), Sean Elliot (1999), John Stockton (1997) and Dennis Johnson (1987).

Meanwhile, Bob Johnson had dinner with Jordan to discuss Jordan's possible involvement in Charlotte's NBA expansion team.

But Johnson, who paid $300 million for the team that will begin play in 2004-05, gave no indication Monday if Jordan is interested in coming to Charlotte.

"Michael and I met over dinner in New York last Thursday to discuss the opportunity for Michael to be involved in the Charlotte NBA franchise," Johnson said. "Michael and I agreed that we would talk again in the near future."

Chris Weiller, spokesman for Charlotte's team, said Johnson would have no further comment on Jordan. *AP*



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Hapee, Viva triumph, seal PBL Cup title showdown

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES SATURDAY
(Quezon Convention Center, Lucena City)
2 p.m.—John O vs Montaña Jewels
4 p.m.—Viva vs Hapee Toothpaste

HAPEE and Viva Mineral Water posted contrasting victories yesterday to barge into the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup best-of-five championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

Viva toyed with also-ran John O, 100-65, while Hapee turned back Montaña Jewels, 86-83, at the end of the double-round semifinals.

While the Water Force hardly worked up a sweat against the Senators, who played with heavy legs all throughout, the Sparklers needed the heroics of LA Tenorio and Wesley Gonzales to frustrate the rallying Jewels.

Comfortably ahead, 76-66, with six minutes left, Hapee found itself in trouble when Gary David sparked Montaña's comeback, 83-84.

But Tenorio sank two free throws and Ateneo teammate Wesley Gonzales preserved the win with a steal off David on the ensuing play.

Viva mentor Koy Banal dedicated the victory to his player Jeff Napa, who is in mourning following the death of his policeman-father Rey, who was killed in line of duty.

Scores:

VIVA 100—Co 16, Catli 14, Zablan 12, Isip 10, Ybañez 10, Yabut 9, Napa 7, Jones 6, Razon 6, Miranda 4, Misolas 4, Sinco 2, Margate 0.

JOHN-O 65—Madrid 18, Eman 6, Laygo 6, Melencio 6, Villamin 5, Kiram 5, Calimag 4, Vergara 4, Oreta 2, Menor 2, McCoy 1, Macapagal 0.

Quarters: 27-12, 49-21, 73-38, 100-65.

HAPEE 86—Salangsang 17, Simon 17, Gonzales 9, Tan 8, Saquilayan 7, Luanzon 5, Dy 5, Gelig 4, Espiritu 4, Tenorio 4, Alvarez 3, Dualan 2, Mercado 1, Fonacier 1, Benedicto 0.

MONTAÑA 83—David 30, Salvador 17, Sayon 9, Alfad 8, Basco 8, Robinson 6, Mendoza 2, Coronel 2, Magsumbol 1, Guererro 0, Callueng 0.

Quarters: 23-11, 44-34, 66-49, 86-83.

Tragedy at the Makati Coliseum

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ALL boxing deaths are a tragedy.

But, then, there can never be a fool-proof, man-made assurance that a prizefighter will always survive a legit fight.

We just have to believe what Muhammad Ali had to swear after the Thrilla in Manila that it was a championship that felt like death.

Thanks to modern-day measures, deaths inside the ring come long and in between nowadays.

Still, tragedy in boxing could come in other ghastly forms.

Yes, just like what happened at the Makati Coliseum on Sunday, there are defeats, mainly of the unexpected kind, that could be as distressful, as heartbreaking as a ring death itself.

***

Listen. Z Gorres, a 21-year-old sensation from Cebu who had racked up 13 straight victories, seven by knockout, was at the Makati Coliseum Sunday for a first defense of his RP flyweight crown.

More than a fight, as noted by Cebu-based boxing expert Salven Lagumbay, the event was supposed to be a coming out party for Gorres.

Before the championship, which drew an elite bunch of knowledgeable boxing figures, Gorres had been lined up for a training stint at the California gym of the renowned Fred Roach. It was said that last Sunday's bout was a sure push for Gorres to be included in the title card of IBF super bantamweight Manny Pacquiao next month.

***

Gorres was to defend against the third-ranked contender, a certain Edgar Rodrigo who had reportedly been knocked out by someone not considered to be in Gorres' rank.

It was, the way it had been hyped, a meeting between a stylish, gifted prince and a poor, plodding commoner.

Gorres had gained enough reputation to be heralded as the next Filipino world champion.

***

Well, to tell you the truth, Gorres did look sleek, he was sort of luminous, during the introduction.

Gorres was a delight to watch in the first round, light-footed, sharp of fists, smart and quick.

How a well-placed punch to the jaw, which visibly jolted Gorres in the second round, suddenly reduced the princely champ into a pale, loose, stammering stiff continued to baffle his handlers until yesterday.

They were right, Rodrigo, operated like a brawler. But he was no common slugger. The third-ranked challenger was methodical in his meanness. His punches were short, hard, well-timed.

Not only that. After that jarring, painful blow to the head in the second round, the best Gorres could do was frantically move out of harm's way.

He did throw his combinations but they were petty, soft, tentative.

Gorres, on the whole, was a pitiful sight, an altar boy let loose against a fire-breathing dockyard executioner.

***

Actually, before the championship, and after he disposed of tough Roy Balateria in the undercard of the Pacquiao card at the Luneta last March, the only visible flaw in Gorres' arsenal was his jab.

That jab, Gorres was pushing it when he should be flicking it like, say, a blinding cobra sting. He jabbed slow, as though trying to push a locked door.

That, as had been planned, would've been readily corrected by proper breathing. He was about to be taught how to launch punches from the navel area, instead of from the shoulder.

In truth, Gorres had been scheduled to meet with a teacher who could've corrected that minor flaw.

***

Sorry, all those plans, from the training trip to America to the reformation of the basic jab, have been indefinitely shelved.

Gorres, as reported in the papers yesterday, suffered a total of three knockdowns–once in the sixth, twice in the eighth–and lost by stoppage in the ninth round.

He has been asked to rest and rechart his career.

Chances are he would opt to return to the ring.

But then, the bigger tragedy here is that he did not only get knocked out.

He played scared and intimidated.

Z Gorres lost but the grimmer fact is that he also lost heart out there, thereby causing his gentle, generous handlers to shed tragic tears.

Bacolod jungolf tilt today

BACOLOD—The Jungolf Southern Challenge fires off today at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club course here.

At least 85 kids from Manila, Davao, Cebu, Del Monte and host Bacolod will be vying for honors in five age-group classifications for boys and girls in the 54-hole tourney ending Friday.

Jayvie Agojo and Nonoy Negrido will be bannering the Big City bets, veteran internationalists Mia Piccio, Jasper Braga and Nonoy Negrido will be leading the Visayan charge.

The event which is part of the Samsung Jungolf Tour is being organized by the Negros chapter of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Paragua grabs chess lead

TOP seed and Grandmaster candidate Mark Paragua whipped 13th seed Rey Jomar Magallanes in 21 moves of Center Counter Game to grab the lead with 8.5 points after the 10th and penultimate round of the 2003 Philippine Junior Chess Championships yesterday at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Earlier, the 19-year-old Paragua routed NM Bob Jones Liwagon in the ninth round.

The 11-round Swiss system tournament is organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

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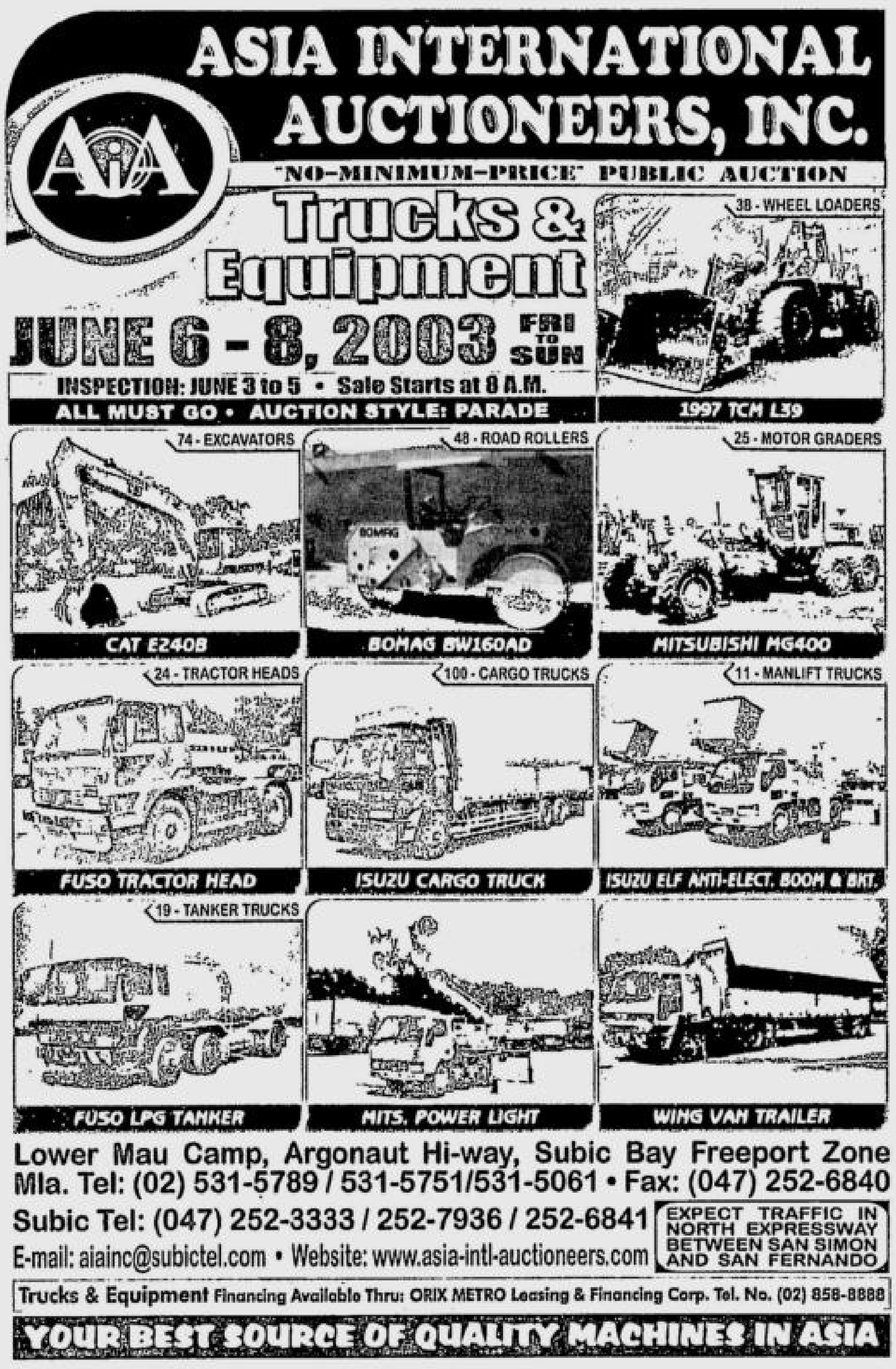

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WILD CARD IN FINAL 8

Kuerten falls at French Open

PARIS—Meet Tommy Robredo, the latest wild card dealt by the French Open.

He celebrates mid-match points as though he's just won a title. He spins drop shots when no one else would. He's 21, the youngest man left at Roland Garros.

And now he's in the final eight of a Grand Slam tournament, joining Albert Costa, Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya to give Spain four quarterfinalists at a major for the first time in the Open era.

Robredo upset three-time French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4 Monday in the fourth round, proving that his victory over top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt of Australia was no fluke. Next up: Costa, the defending champion.

Costa is next

"I've beaten the Ace, I've beaten the King," Robredo said. "Now I need to beat the Jack, don't I? I've beaten No. 1, I've beaten someone who won here three times, and the next person in my path is Costa.

"If I beat Costa, I'll have beaten the entire deck of cards."

Like Robredo, Guillermo Coria of Argentina is 21, the son of a tennis coach, and playing in his first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Coria earned a matchup against childhood hero Andre Agassi by finishing off fellow Argentine Mariano Zabaleta 6-4, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-7 (4), 6-3 in a match suspended after three sets Sunday because of darkness.

Coria, 3 1/2 months older than Robredo, was named after 1977 French Open champion Guillermo Vilas. But his favorite player growing up was Agassi.

Ferrero, who lost to Costa in last year's final, eliminated countryman Felix Mantilla 6-2, 6-1, 6-1. Ferrero's next opponent is No. 19 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, who beat No. 30 Jarkko Nieminen of Finland.

Costa opened the tournament with three five-setters, but he finally had an easy day, eliminating the last Frenchman, No. 32 Arnaud Clement, 6-2, 7-5, 7-5. The French Open's last homegrown male champion was Yannick Noah in 1983.

Success stories

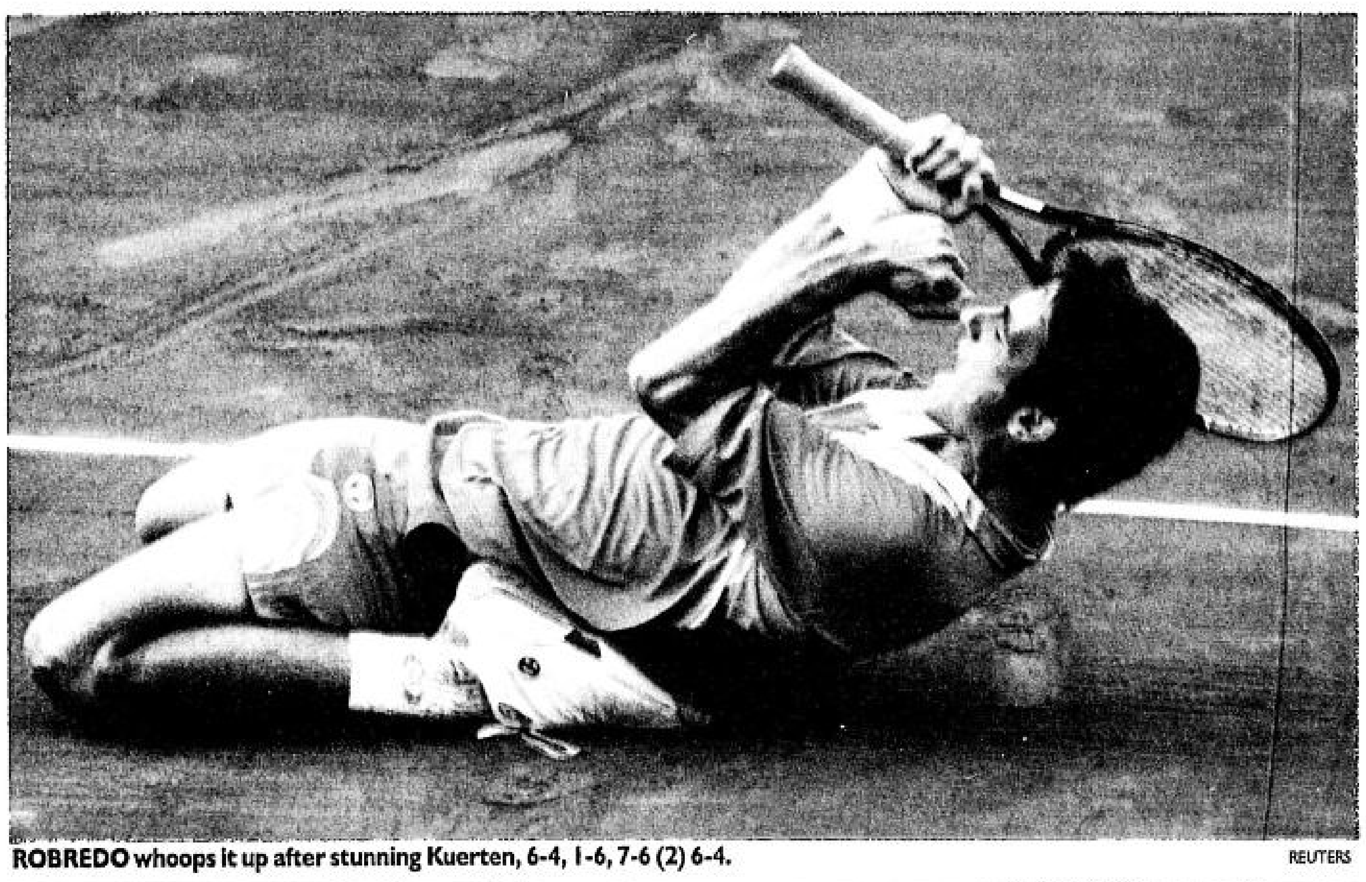
The French Open's red clay does seem to have a way of producing surprising success stories, players who triumph here and not at other majors. Recent examples include Andres Gomez (1990), Thomas Muster (1995) and Moya (1998).

Costa was a classic example of an out-of-nowhere champion. He didn't win any of his preceding 65 tournaments–nor any of the 22 since. Kuerten himself was 20, ranked 66th, and without a previous title when he won his first French Open in 1997.

Robredo owns one title and reached just one other final– both in 2001. He began that year ranked 131st, finished 30th, then plateaued. Robredo came to Paris ranked 31st and seeded 28th, with first-round exits at two of the last three majors.

Oh, but what a run he's having.

His victory over Hewitt in the third round marked the first time Robredo overcame a two-set deficit– and the first time Hewitt relinquished one. Robredo was brilliant for stretches against Kuerten, striking 21 forehand winners. *AP*



ROBREDO whoops it up after stunning Kuerten, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (2) 6-4.

REUTERS

KUERTEN holds his headband after losing a point.

AP

Horses, jockeys renew rivalry

All eyes on Funny Cide, Empire Maker in Belmont Stakes

NEW YORK—If you want to get Jerry Bailey riled up, ask him if he would trade places with fellow jockey Jose Santos.

"Of course not," Bailey snapped. "I think my horse is the best horse."

They, along with the rest of the country, will find out in Saturday's Belmont Stakes.

Santos will ride Funny Cide, who has a chance to become the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years. Bailey's mount is Empire Maker, who finished second to Funny Cide in the Kentucky Derby.

Empire Maker, the Derby betting favorite, ran with a foot injury that had bothered him all week.

"I'm frustrated that if Empire Maker had been on his game, it probably would have been a different story at Churchill," Bailey said. "I rode him as if he was really sound, but he wasn't."

Empire Maker and Funny Cide have beaten each other once, so the Belmont will be their rubber match. Empire Maker won the Wood Memorial in April, while Funny Cide won the Derby by 13/4 lengths.

Empire Maker skipped the Preakness, and comes into the Belmont off a five-week layoff.

Besides his foot injury, Empire Maker lost weight after the Derby, so "he needed some time to freshen up," Bailey said.

"Empire Maker looks like he's in beautiful condition, so you've got to respect him," said Barclay Tagg, Funny Cide's trainer.

Funny Cide won the Preakness by 9 3/4 lengths, and will be racing again after a three-week rest. *AP*

Annika takes aim at LPGA Championship

AURORA, Illinois—Annika Sorenstam tested herself against the best at Colonial, then returned to the top of the LPGA Tour without missing a step.

Now she has her sights set on something major: this week's LPGA Championship.

"To come to a tournament with a win, it doesn't get much better than that," Sorenstam said Sunday after winning the Kellogg-Keebler Classic by three strokes, a victory that wasn't nearly as close as it looked.

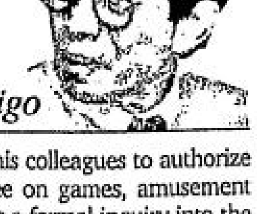
Cink sets records

WESTERVILLE, Ohio—Stewart Cink bogeyed his first of 36 holes Monday and was already thinking he might be in for yet another US Open disappointment. Then he recorded 22 birdies, set two course records and breezed to medalist honors at a sectional qualifier for next week's championship at Olympia Fields.

Cink had rounds of 62-61, finishing nine strokes ahead of anyone else. *AP*

Jawo helping to rectify miscarriage of justice

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

THE LIVING legend of basketball, Robert Jaworski, who is now a senator of the land, has done a good job of keeping his nose clean, staying on the right side of the law, sticking to the current issues, in particular the drug issues in the Philippine Basketball Association, which are, he said, "very delicate issues."

As a lawmaker, he remains a rock on major points of principle, yet he understands the true meaning of due process and values the human rights of people, including the much-maligned PBA players who were subjected to public humiliation after they were named by Commissioner Noli Eala as having tested positive for illegal drugs.

"I don't want to say that the PBA Commissioner or the PBA itself is at fault," Jaworski said in an interview, "but the fact that the players didn't have much time to react before the information was revealed to the public placed the burden of proof on the players, who would otherwise dispute the findings."

Last Monday, Jaworski filed Senate Resolution No. 616 asking his colleagues to authorize the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports to conduct a formal inquiry into the ongoing drug problem in the PBA. The inquiry hopes to help the committee enact remedial measures aimed at addressing the issue at hand, at correcting the possible flaws in the drug testing process and the standards used by the PBA and the Department of Health and rectify numerous "miscarriages of justice."

No wonder he is liked and respected by the players, and the millions of PBA fans and followers. For Jaworski has a big heart. He is a level-headed leader who defends the helpless and the downtrodden. He is not witty, but he is utterly convincing because he is sincere, confident and thoroughly straightforward. He is not also a bad basketball player even at age 56. Last Friday before a large crowd at the Araneta Coliseum, the Big J scored the game-clinching three-point shot in the final seconds to power Toyota over archrival Crispa, 65-61, in their nerve-frazzling reunion match. Jaworski is indeed a breed apart.

***

MUST-SEE FIBL FINALS. If Game I of the ongoing FIBL (Filipino-Indian Basketball League) best-of-three championship series between defending champion Knights and 2000 titlists Bombay Bombers were to be the barometer, then this Sunday's Game 2 at 3 p.m. at the Makati Coliseum is a must-see affair for basketball lovers. In Game 1, the Knights came from behind to win, 84-82.

According to youthful FIBL Commissioner Dilip Budhrani, who is a longtime friend, colorful ceremonies will mark Sunday's championship game.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: 2003 French Open; 7:30 p.m.; Solar Sports - It's down to the last eight as the men's and women's quarterfinals continue in Roland Garros.

BASKETBALL: Pistons vs Nets, Game 4; 7:30 a.m. (r); Solar Sports - Take a look back at how New Jersey booked itself a seat in the NBA Finals.

1988 LA Lakers - Back to Back; 7:30 p.m. (r); ESPN - Relive the glory days of Showtime featuring Magic, Kareem and Worthy.

Kings vs Mavs, Game 5, 5 p.m. (r); Solar Sports - Catch the replay of this high-scoring playoff duel between Sacramento and Dallas.

SPORTSWATCH

Ducks level series

ANAHEIM, California—Steve Thomas put in Samuel Pahlsson's rebound 39 seconds into overtime Monday, giving the Anaheim Mighty Ducks a dramatic 1-0 victory over New Jersey and evening the Stanley Cup finals at two games each. The Devils, once firmly in control after two easy victories at home but now locked in a tied series, lost both games in Anaheim in overtime. Ruslan Salei got the game-winner in Game 3 Saturday. The goal by the 39-year-old Thomas, a late-season pickup by the Ducks, made Anaheim 7-0 in playoff overtimes. The Devils are 2-4. Of Anaheim's 14 playoff victories, 10 have come in overtime or the final five minutes of the third period. *AP*

Arizona pitcher fined

SAN DIEGO—Arizona Diamondbacks pitching ace Curt Schilling was fined about $15,000 by major league baseball Monday for destroying a camera used to evaluate umpires. Schilling smashed part of the Questec Umpire Evaluation System on May 24 during a home loss to the San Diego Padres, and said umpires have told him they are changing their strike zones to match the machine. "He was fined the cost of the camera, and then there was a fine imposed on the disciplinary side," said Bob Watson, vice president of on-field operations in the commissioner's office. Schilling plans to appeal. *AP*

Rockies avoid sweep

SAN FRANCISCO—Shawn Chacon became the first eight-game winner in the National League, leading the Colorado Rockies to a 4-1 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Monday. Greg Norton hit his first homer of the season as the Rockies snapped a seven-game road losing streak and avoided a four-game sweep. Colorado improved to 7-22 on the road this year. The Giants saw their five-game winning streak end, losing for the first time on their 12-game homestand. *AP*

Arellano rules chess

ENGINEER Robert Arellano and businessman Belsar Valencia shared the top spot in the Elite section of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express (Peace) 2003 third leg recently at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. But Arellano took home the winner's trophy due to a higher tiebreak score. Both finished with four points in the one-day five-round event organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. (Acca) with the support of Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank. Davao businessman James Infesto won all his five games to rule the Classic section. The fourth leg will be held on June 28. For more details, call Acca at 892-8759.

Fun run set Sunday

THE "Run for Fitness, Run for Fun" of the Mandarin Oriental Manila fires off this Sunday (June 8) at the hotel's parking lot. Assembly time for the 5-km fun run is 5:30 a.m. The event is an annual activity that was launched by Mandarin Oriental Health Club six years ago to complement the hotel's fitness programs conducted at the Pure Yoga studio and The Oriental Spa. Backing the event are Fit Inc. (distributors of StarTrac, Nautilus, Bowflex and Schwinn), West Leisure N Fitness Equipment, Unilever, Pharmaton, Base6 Nutrition, and Red Bull. For more details, call Mandarin Oriental Health Club at 750-8888 extension 2330.

Clutario, pals ahead

THE TRIO of Liza Clutario, Ellen Ramos and Jojo Canare shone in the ladies event of the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Open Monday night at the Green Valley Center in Pasig. Clutario, Ramos and Canare, all national team members, tallied 1226 to move from third to first spot in the class 0 category. Their effort relegated to second erstwhile leader Boysen-Euromed (1185) anchored by Irene Benitez and to third the other RP squad (1190) bannered by Liza del Rosario. The two-week meet is sponsored by Boysen, the Philippine Sports Commission, Guide, Silver Wings, Mercury International Security Printing, Paper Handling Systems Confident Feminine Napkins and H.S. Pow Construction.

Roligon tilt stakes P2M

A GUARANTEED prize of P2.2 million is at stake in Roligon Mega Cockpit's next blockbuster dubbed as "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" on June 28, July 1, 3, and 5. Entry fee is P8,800. Rolly Ligon's latest offering comes on the heels of successful promotions like Noche Buena, Roligon Anniversary, Hatawan, Largahan and Balikatan derbies, where the minimum number of entries is 180. "Please take note that handler and gaffer's prize is P150,000 and P75,000 during the championship round. As you can see, we are giving lots of prizes for the handler and gaffer," Ligon said. For more details, please contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

'Firefly' solo champ

CROWD favorite Firefly 13 Sagupaan won its last match in grand style yesterday to score 5-1/2 points and emerge solo champion of the "Encounter at the Big Dome" 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Expertly handled by two-time NCA Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Firefly 13 edged out for top honors Sagupaan Complexor Firefly which posted five points in this derby hosted by Ito Ynares and Gerry Ramos. King Cobra of the venerable James Chiongbian finished a close third with 4-1/2 points while three others landed in the winners' circle by registering 3-1/2 points. These were Golden Circle II, Harumawi and Swing Golden Circle. Meanwhile, the NCA 7-Cock Derby circuit winds up on June 9-11, with All-Americans Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman and the National Cockers Association as hosts.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The best actors are giving and selfless

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent piece on great actors' notes on acting has elicited a number of reactions from readers, including a request for us to make the notes relevant to the local theater-TV-film situation. Here, then, are additional inputs on how to become an exceptional actor in the Philippine setting:

First, actors should ask themselves why they want to act. If it's mainly for fame and fortune, that would be starting off on the wrong foot. The best actors don't think of themselves and what acting can give them. Rather, they think of the material they're supposed to interpret, and of their audience.

Thus, the best actors are giving and selfless. They think of themselves as conduits between the script and the audience, so they make sure that they are competent in this regard.

They train themselves to think, feel, talk and move with insight, confidence, and versatility, so that they can competently perform any role that's given them and to make it believable and moving to the audience.

They also work hard at acquiring a good general background in and exposure to the different arts, so that they become not just competent actors, but well-rounded artists and art appreciators as well.

In the Philippines, a big temptation is to act simply to make money. This "racket" mentality results in shallow, rushed performances, and the serious actor must avoid that at all cost.

He should try very hard to work on the best scripts, because they will challenge him to exceed his limits.

He also needs to work with the best directors, because they can help him discover his strengths and weaknesses, and teach him how to compensate for his limitations.

In training himself, the actor who wants to really improve himself should go beyond attending "quickie" workshops, because they won't really help him become a really good actor. They will raise too many questions that they won't have the time to answer, so the young actor could end up feeling confused and incomplete.

Rather, he should opt for long workshops that will force him to develop his thespic skills in great detail. He should also keep acting, even if the productions are only of the "laboratory" type, because the actor learns most from acting, not from workshops.

The actor should also so train himself in script analysis, something that many thespians overlook. Most of the time, they rely on intuition or gut feel, or simply follow their director's instructions.

Rigorous script analysis teaches the actor how to look for the wellsprings of his character's needs and wants, which in turn propel his development in the course of the production. Without insightful analysis, the character's development will be unclear, erratic and without the all-important "arc" that shows how the character has changed as a result of his having to cope with the major life-changing conflicts in the script. A difficult process? You bet. That's why we have only a few great actors. If you want to become one of them, you've got to be ready to work harder than everybody else.

'Terminator 3'

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THE BEST/ A30

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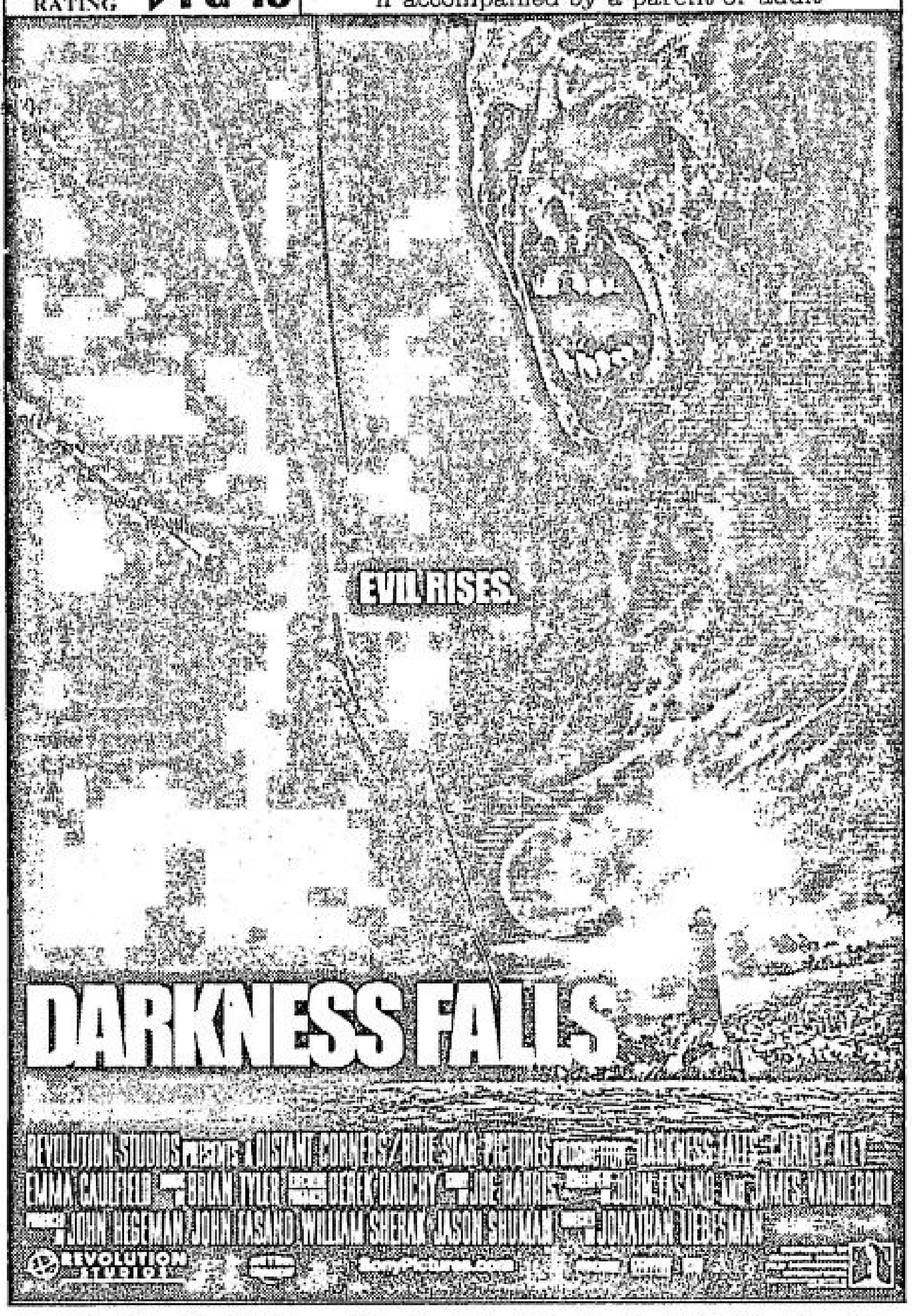
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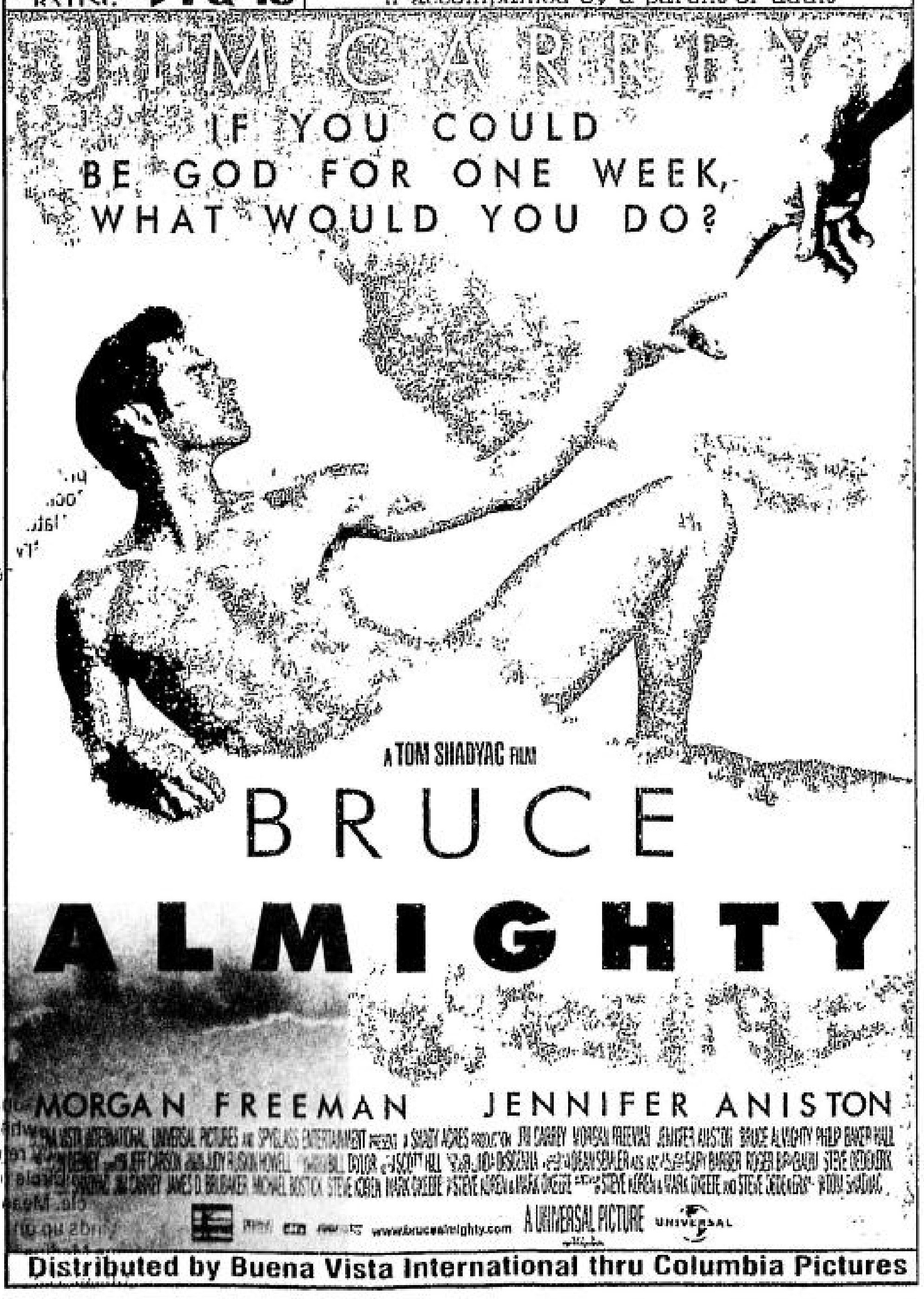
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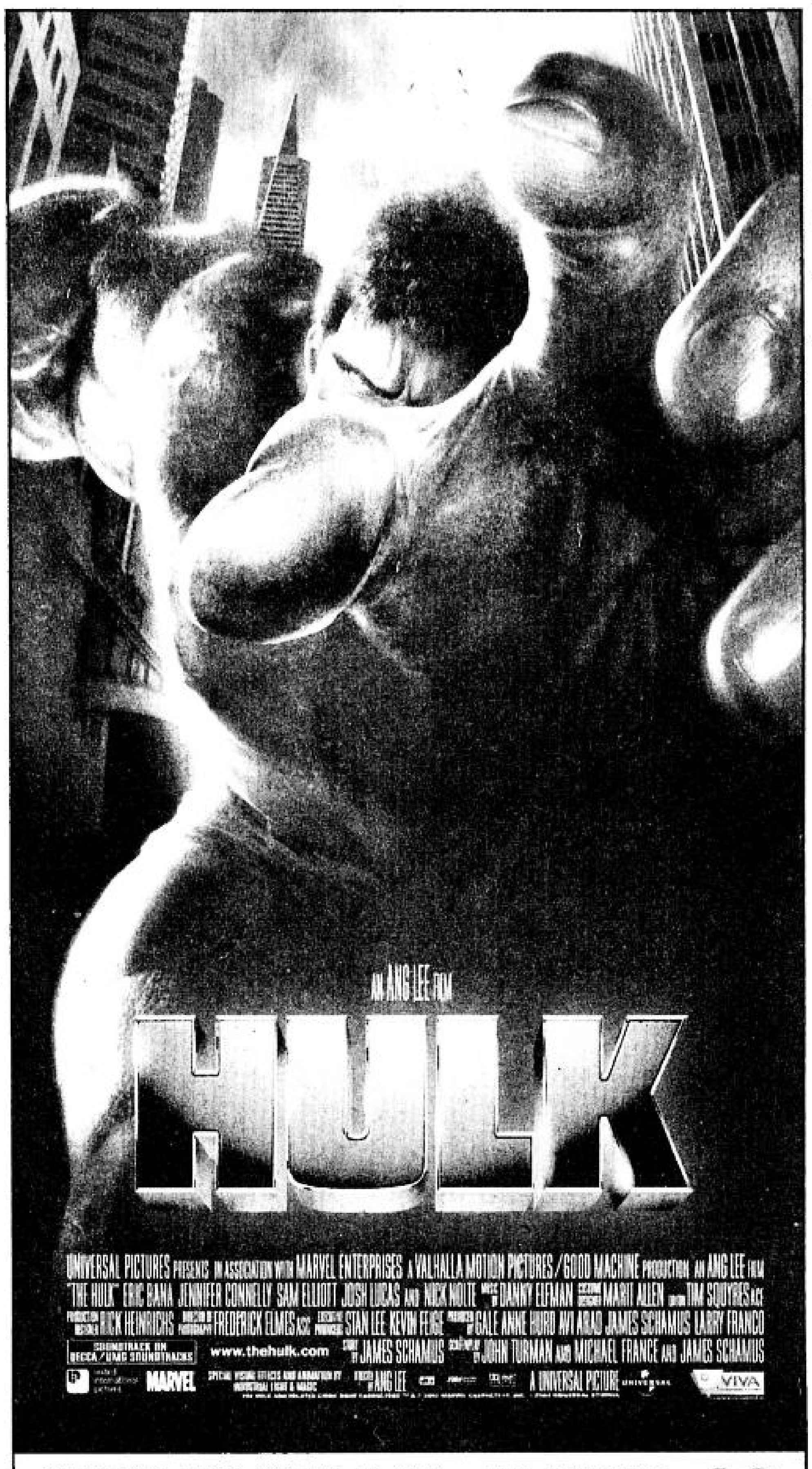
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A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.

"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

‘pinaysex.com’ . . .

From page A32

Laguardia would reconsider her decision after their dialogue.

“I intend to explain to the board the origin of the movie’s title,” he said.

Aside from directing the movie, Aguiluz also co-wrote the script with his Movpix creative team that includes Palanca Award winner Angelo “Sarge” Lacuesta and Jasmin Coles, a finalist in the Cinemanila International Film Festival scriptwriting contest.

As described by Aguiluz, “pinaysex.com” tells the story of an Americanized Filipina (Juliana Palermo) who returns to Manila and finds herself a stranger in a strange land. She finds solace and identity in her new job as a sex worker in an online pornography business. She discovers fame, love and other facets of her personality through her occupation and the people she encounters.

Aguiluz also directed the aborted "Dukot Queen," starring Sunshine Cruz and Jay Manalo. Although the movie was never completed, outtakes of a Sunshine-Jay love scene fell into the hands of video pirates, who sold the video excerpt around the country.

The best actors . . .

From page A29

film franchise, he co-stars with **Nick Stahl, Kristanna Loken** and **Claire Danes.**

A decade has passed since **John Connor** (Stahl) helped prevent Judgment Day and save mankind from mass destruction. Connor can’t be traced by Skynet, the highly developed network of machines that once tried to kill him and wage war on humanity—until T-X (Loken) Skynet’s most sophisticated cyborg killing machine is sent to track him down. Now Connor’s only hope for survival is the Terminator (Schwarzenegger), his former assassin. Together, they must triumph over the technologically superior T-X and forestall the looming threat of Judgement Day.

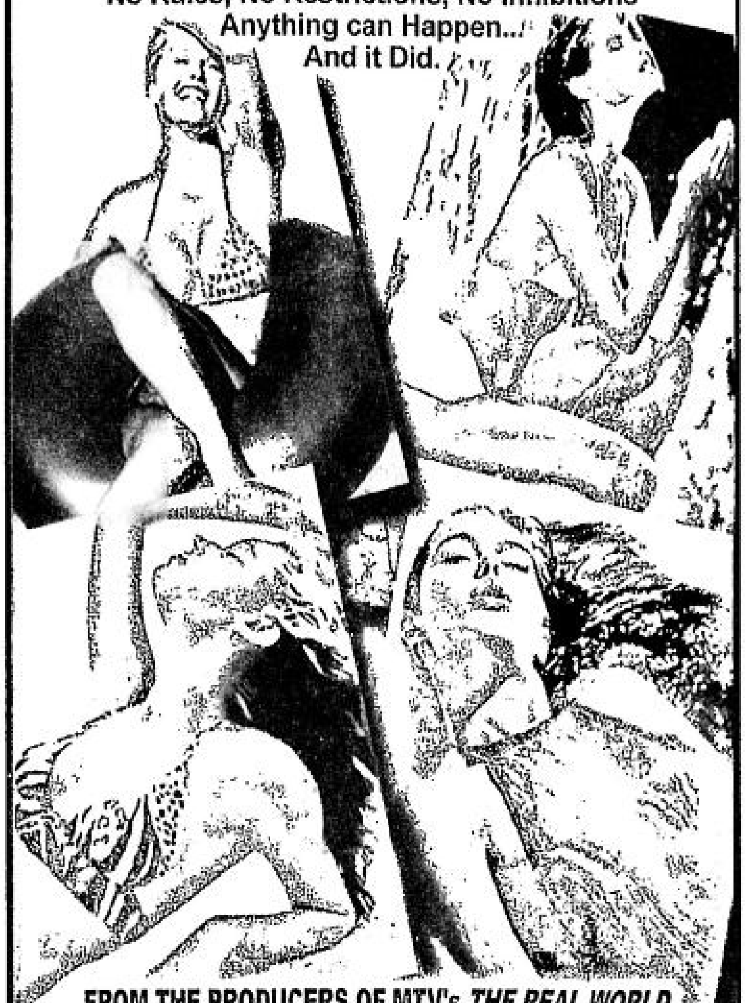
Great stunts . . .

From page A31

siasm and womanly sexuality. There’s a lesbian subtext between Sue and Mok’s Hong that doesn’t come to fruition (too bad).

Mok is perhaps the most talented of the three leads. The actor-singer, who was once accepted for a part in the London production of “Miss Saigon” (she turned it down in favor of a Hong Kong recording contract), sang some of the songs in the film’s musical score and is the only actor in the film who actually didn’t need to have her lines dubbed for her (she speaks perfect English, as well as Italian, French, Cantonese and Mandarin!). She looks quite adept whether she’s kicking and flipping or just goofing along with her bumbling cop sidekick in the film’s sitcom-esque transition shots.

“So Close” is not the kind of film you absolutely need to run out to see. But for a purely kinetic experience with three fantastic heroines, the film is lively, unpretentious fun. Go see it if it’s still showing. You know you want to.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DARKNESS FALLS **PG13** 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	**FRIDA** **R18** 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	**BRUCE ALMIGHTY** **PG13** 11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:00, 10:10

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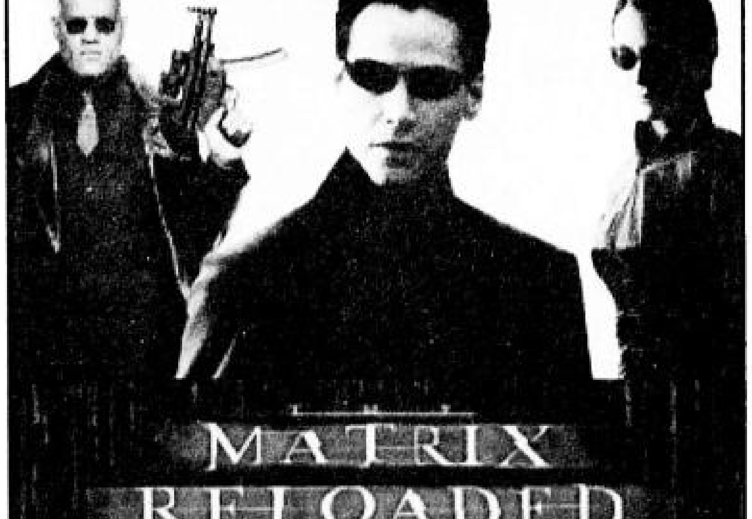

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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A	BIGAY HILIG
B	ANG TANGING INA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-7	FRIDA
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
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CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA 3	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
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'SO CLOSE'

Great stunts, greater fights

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

IF YOU are one of those guys (okay, girls, too) who go for films where it's the women doing all the mind-blowing but mindless action sequences, then you might want to check out "So Close"—that is, before you go see that upcoming film with the famous female crime-fighting trinity whose strings are pulled by their faceless boss man.

"So Close" stars Shu Qi, Zhao Wei and Karen Mok. They're not the Asian version of Charlie's Angels, but the comparison just can't be avoided since they're also three butt-kicking major babes who look so achingly sexy whether they're kung-fu fighting or blowing everything up on screen.

Shu Qi ("The Transporter"), arguably the most luminous of the female stars, plays Lynn, who, together with Zhao Wei's ("Shaolin Soccer") Sue, are a sister-act assassination team. Lynn takes care of the dirty work while the younger Sue provides technical support using their own family satellite and a big brother program called the World Panorama, which can hack into any security system and track anyone anywhere in the world. Invented by their father, the World Panorama got Sue and Lynn's parents killed, a tragedy that drove them to their violent life as assassins. Or so goes the film's plot.

But plot is but piffle here anyway. It's merely a reasonable strategy for what the film actually is: a pure blood, Hong Kong-style martial arts film with great stunts and even greater fight scenes.

"So Close" is a Corey Yuen film. Yuen, who directed Jet Li in "Bodyguard from Beijing" and whose work in Hollywood includes directing the fight scenes in films like "Lethal Weapon 4," "Kiss of the Dragon" and "Romeo Must Die," obviously knows how to create the most exciting action sequences and shoot them on film. He understands that it's incumbent on films like this to really move.

There are no slow buildups in the film. The action doesn't take long in coming as the audience is treated to a spectacular opening sequence where Lynn offs an evil techno tycoon (is there any other kind?) and his army of henchmen in an orgy of bullets, explosions and flying shards of glass (none of which messes her hair, of course), set to the Bacharach/David song "Close to You."

As the picture leaps from one scene to another, Yuen seems almost neurotic about not having a proper script, so he packs the film with a great deal of kung fu action, explosions and nifty camera tricks. The hand-to-hand fight scenes are so spectacular that Yuen, at times, almost appears to be winking at the audience.

There's Lynn, for instance, anchoring herself with special stiletto shoes to the ceiling after a series of kicks. In another scene, she temporarily blinds Karen Mok by hair whipping her eyes. Mok, who plays Hong, a crack detective hot after the sisters' trail, teams up with Zhao in the end to provide a bravura climax, battling the bad guys to death.

You'd have to be a hopeless curmudgeon not to be entertained on some juvenile level by the innovative action sequences (and, again, the major babes executing them). The film works precisely because it has no illusions about what it is and no illusions about the kind of audience whose attention it is trying to get.

"So Close" slows down somewhat when it tries to provide some drama with subplots involving the sisters' sibling rivalry and Lynn's yearning to turn a new leaf after she reunites with a college sweetheart who knows nothing about her deadly profession. But the film really doesn't try to promote any sort of serious or introspective discussion through them—and rightly so.

The female stars of "So Close" are all in synch with the material while the men are merely disposable decorations. Despite the cliché-riddled cheesy dialogue and a plot that, like a house of cards, collapses under the weight of too many contrivances, the ladies remain utterly watchable in their roles.

Shu Qi, who's more recognized for her beauty than her acting chops, brings an unusual energy and edge to the angst-ridden Lynn. It would have been nice for the filmmakers to put a little bit more emotional arc to the back story of Lynn and her former boyfriend and how she's awakened from her life as an assassin after falling in love, but I guess that would have been a deviation from the film's frenetic pace.

Zhao Wei, as the petulant Sue who's itching to take over her sister's place in the assassination business, is just right for the part as she exudes that unique balance of childish enthu-

GREAT/ A30

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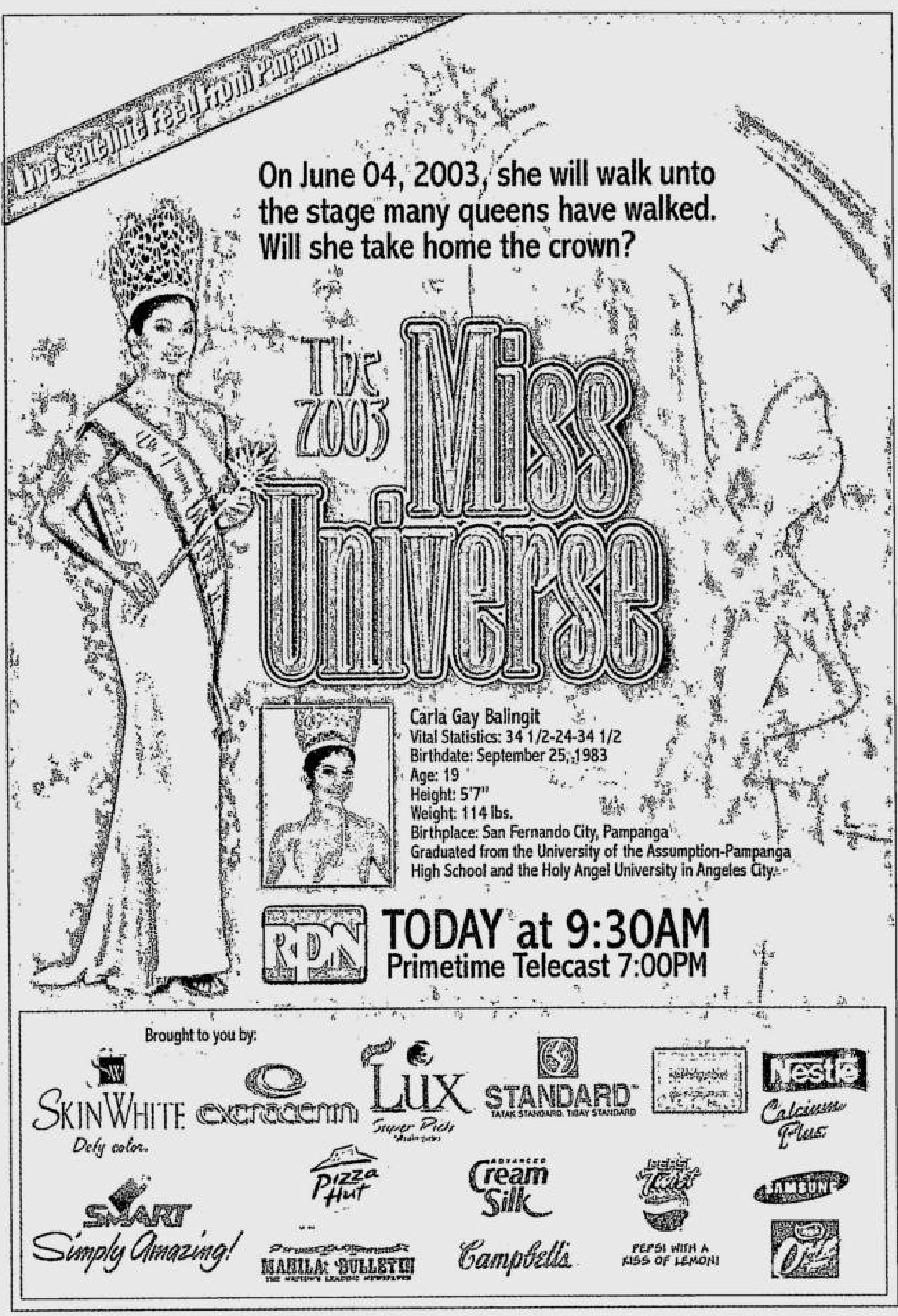
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Age: 19
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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

'pinaysex.com' a slur on Pinays, says MTRCB

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) yesterday disapproved the title of the new Tikoy Aguiluz movie, "pinaysex.com," saying it tarnishes the image of Filipino women.

"The title implies that the movie features Filipino women who are in the sex trade," MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia said. "The title is misleading. When foreign moviegoers see a Filipina, they might automatically think she's a mail-order bride or is involved in Internet prostitution."

She said mail-order brides have given Filipinas unsavory reputations like being "gold-diggers and sexually promiscuous."

"The movie's title sort of strengthens that," she added.

She said she has asked the movie's producer, Maverick Films, to explain in writing why they chose to call the movie "pinaysex.com."

Laguardia admitted, however, that she has not seen even the trailer of the movie.

Director Aguiluz said the film does not intend to stain the image of Filipino women.

Aguiluz on Monday said he was to meet with the MTRCB chief in her office at the President Tower on Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

Aguiluz said he was confident

PINAYSEX/ A30

JULIANA Palermo, star of "pinaysex.com"

DID YOU KNOW...

Pops Fernandez left for New York not with her rumored boyfriend, model **Brad Turvey**, but alone, to attend a cousin's wedding. From the US, she will perform in two concerts in Vancouver and Toronto with rumored ex-boyfriend **Troy Montero** and **Aiza Seguerra. Ai-Ai de las Alas** was supposed to be in the group but backed out for fear of the dreaded SARS. Pops and Brad vacationed together in Australia.

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Gov't seeks control of Pagcor, PCSO funds

By Doris C. Dumlao

SCRAMBLING for more measures to shore up its revenues, the national government has revived plans to get hold of all earnings of state-owned cash cows Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through a "one fund" policy.

Documents from a recent Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) meeting indicated that the inter-agency macroeconomic council had approved a plan to push for legislative changes to centralize the remittance of billions of earnings from Pagcor and PCSO to the national treasury.

This is part of the government's six-pronged strategy to boost its 2004 fiscal performance wherein the deficit is programmed to slow down to P197 billion or 4.2 percent of gross domestic product compared to the P202 billion shortfall expected this year.

"The DBCC shall recommend for a change in the law to have all PCSO and Pagcor shares to be remitted to the Treasury and placed in the general fund," the DBCC documents said.

"This will repeal the existing earmarking of the government shares to certain purposes and will review the noted practice of Pagcor of not declaring the collection from bingo games in the government's share," the document added.

A source from DBCC said the proposal was revived to enable the government to make better use of billions of earnings being chalked up by the two agencies.

Pagcor, for instance, posted about P16 billion in gross earnings last year and is targeting to reap P20 billion this year. An official from Pagcor estimated that about 57-58 percent of the agency's earnings would usually go to contributions mandated by different laws.

Of Pagcor's total collections, 5 percent automatically goes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue as franchise tax while 50 percent of the balance goes to the National Treasury. Another 5 percent goes to the Sports Commission and one percent to the Board of Claims. It is also mandated to contribute to child care development, gasoline savings fund under the downstream oil deregulation law and other poverty alleviation programs.

"It makes sense to pursue that one-fund concept because with all the new laws being passed requiring Pagcor contributions, there is no harmony in the allocation of funds," the Pagcor official said.

In the case of the PCSO—which generates its revenues from the sale of sweepstakes and lotto tickets—55 percent of revenue is allocated to the prize fund, 30 percent to the charity fund and 15 percent to its operating fund. If there is a balance on the operating fund at the end of the fiscal year, it reverts and forms part of the Charity Fund.

Like Pagcor, PCSO is required by various laws to contribute to programs on shelter and urban development, education, local government units, sports, overseas contract workers and indigenous people.

Neda chief allays fears of peso slide

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S chief economic manager said he was willing to bet his one-month salary that the peso would not drop to 57 to $1 by the end of this year or in 2004 as projected by an international investment house.

According to Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, there were no grave signs at the moment that would indicate the peso would plunge to a low of 57 against the US dollar as predicted by UBS Warburg Asia Ltd.

"I'm willing to put a bet, and I challenge them to put their money where their mouths are," Neri said in an interview.

He said the projection made by UBS Warburg was unsupported by actual economic indicators.

UBS Warburg had projected that the peso would hit a low of 57 versus the dollar due to the weakening of the country's external accounts, particularly the expected $1.5 billion in trade deficit that it would incur by year's end.

Neri said that aside from trade performance, there were other factors to consider in determining a currency's performance, and added that none of those were currently showing negative signs for the peso.

NEDA/ B4

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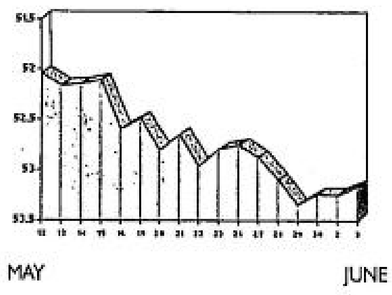

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As of 5 p.m., June 3, 2003

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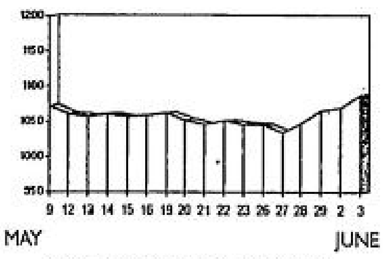
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks rebound 1.75%

STOCKS bounced back yesterday from the previous session dip, led by foreign buying interest in PLDT and other major large caps, traders said.

The main composite index finished up 18.77 points, or 1.75 percent, at 1,088.83. Turnover reached P485.59 million against P470.1 million on Monday.

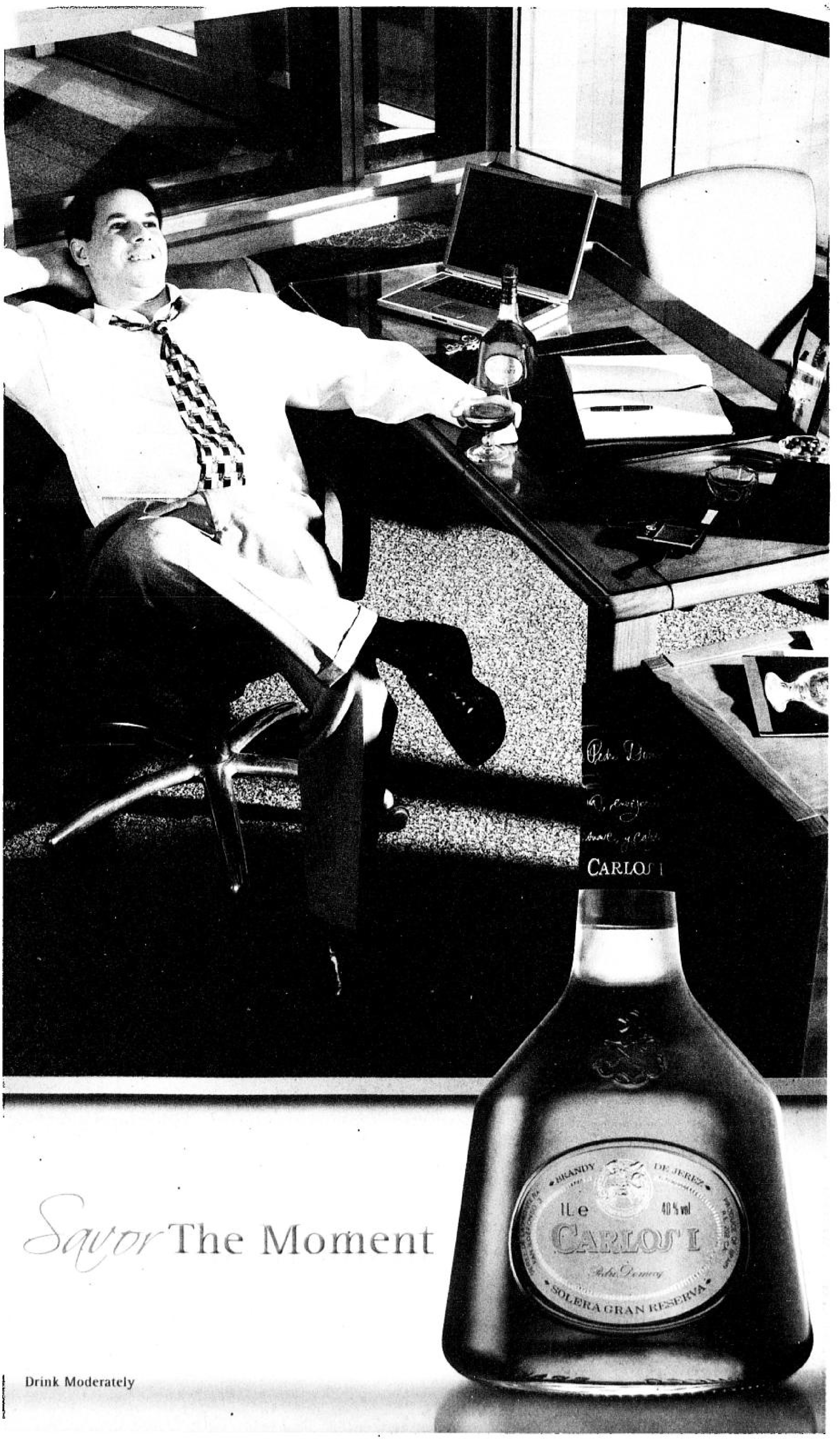
Investors took heart from expectations for benign inflation in May, as well as initial data showing the Bureau of Customs beat its May revenue collection target, CitiSecurities Inc. research head April Lee-Tan said.

The inflation data are due out tomorrow with the consensus from economists surveyed by Reuters for a 2.8 percent year-on-year rise, unchanged from the April number.

"In general positive news on inflation and the Bureau of Customs collections would mean less upward pressure on interest rates and that would tend to support the banking and properties sectors," Lee-Tan said.

The financials sub-sector index rose 3.95

STOCKS/ B2



MVP says First Pacific to focus on food, telecom

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE channeling much effort and resources to further enhance the profitability of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Indonesian noodle giant PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk, Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. has vowed to be "more careful" about making new investments.

While newly installed First Pacific managing director Manuel Pangilinan affirmed that the conglomerate's growth would continue to be anchored on PLDT and Indofood, he stressed that any disbursements for possible expansions of the two firms would be discussed and thought out thoroughly.

"There will be growth in these two companies and there will always be available opportunities. But we have to be careful about our investments. We don't want to make the same mistakes again," he said in a telephone interview.

Since the peak of the conglomerate's stocks in late 1996, First Pacific management had given the Salim family that owned it quite a beating for overpaying for property and telecommunications assets here.

Property development firm Metro Pacific Corp. suffered heavily during the 1997 Asian financial crisis when real estate prices plunged near historic lows.

PANGILINAN

However, the real estate developer is now starting to recove by significantly trimming losses to only P59 million in the first quarter from P523 million in the same period last year.

This significant reduction in losses was attributable to Metro Pacific's deconsolidation of Bonifacio Land Corp. from its books after the sale of its 50.4-percent stake in the company to the Ayala-Campos group late last year.

Right now, First Pacific is poised to pursue a two-pronged food and telecommunications strategy hinged on Indofood and PLDT. The strategy aims to expand the reach of the two firms to cover not only their respective countries of origin but the whole region as well.

The strategy was prepared by Pangilinan, First Pacific non-executive chair Anthoni Salim and two newly resigned First Pacific executives, chief operating officer Michael Healy and corporate secretary Ronald Brown.

Although First Pacific's focus would now just be on telecommunications and food, Pangilinan said the sale of any other subsidiary was not in the Hong Kong-based firm's current plans.

"I don't see that happening in the near term," he said.

Apart from "fleshing out" the.company's future plans, he said he would also be working on refinancing a $100-milion loan First Pacific had with investment bank ING Barings.

While running and leading First Pacific, Pangilinan would stay at the helm of PLDT.

"MVP has put together a strong management team in PLDT, which will give him some flexibility to go to First Pacific headquarters on a weekly basis. In the meantime, there are no significant changes in PLDT management," PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo Jimenez Jr. said.

"For now, MVP plans to go to Hong Kong once a week for a day or two or more if required," he added.

LOOKING AHEAD

Rebuilding value back into shares of PLDT

BUOYED by its recent impressive performance, the country's largest fixed-line telecommunications company has mapped out a future as the continuing leader in the business.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. recently marked a five-year high in its operating and financial performance, reporting a consolidated net income of P2.5 billion for the first quarter of 2003. This was a 58-percent rise over the same period last year driven mainly by the robust growth of the conglomerate's wireless telecommunications business.

PLDT president and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan, however, sees a future for the company that continues to build on the fixed-line business even as the near- and medium-term strategies remain hinged on the continuing growth of its wireless business.

"Our broad strategy for PLDT is simple—to grow our wireless business and strengthen our fixed-line business," Pangilinan said. "The results of our performance in the first quarter of 2003 validates that we are moving in the right direction."

"I also believe that the market has yet to see the full degree to which we intend to realize additional cash flow from the fixed-line business," Pangilinan pointed out.

Core Strength

Pangilinan admitted that "the overall fixed-line market may be regarded as unspectacular." However, he added that it was "stable and steady."

After nearly 75 years of operation, the company maintains its dominant position of almost 70 percent of all installed lines in the country, accounting for over two million lines in service.

It also operates the only nationwide digital microwave backbone.

PLDT has a franchise valid until 2028.

"I am determined to see this (fixed-line) business improve," Pangilinan emphasized.

Fixed-line strategy

"We will continue to offer new, innovative fixed line products," Pangilinan said. These included the expansion of the prepaid landline product, enhanced services for new market segments, and new affordable handsets.

"These are critical to generating consumer excitement about our landline service," he added.

He pointed out, however, that data services would be the "key growth area" for the fixed line business."

Data services, along with other fixed-line products, accounted for some P5.5 billion in PLDT revenues last year, up 15 percent from the previous year. Two new data services were launched in 2002: PLDT Vibe and myDSL. The two services became industry leaders in a few months time. "I believe there is considerable scope for more growth in both these areas," he added. "And we intend to extend our market leadership in these areas."

Steady earnings

Pangilinan emphasized that while the fixed-line business "should not be expected to deliver spectacular growth," it can be counted on to provide steady and consistent earnings and cash flow.

PLDT's fixed-line business chalked up P44.9 billion in 2002, and has already reached P2.2 billion in the current year. "These are respectable and strong results given the weakness that are being experienced by nearly every other fixed line operator around the world," he explained.

Pangilinan said PLDT was "determined to move up." "Our preeminent task is to rebuild value back into PLDT shares."

He explained that the long-term goal "is to transform PLDT into a competitive, diversified, efficient and highly profitable telecommunications technology conglomerate."

"The best years for PLDT, and for First Pacific's investment in PLDT, are yet to come," he said.

Stocks

From page B1

percent and the properties index finished up 1.62 percent.

PLDT, the country's largest phone firm, gained on news that its chief Manuel Pangilinan was appointed managing director of parent First Pacific Co Ltd .

"It seems with this move Pangilinan may have cemented his position at PLDT," said Eagle Equities Inc, president Joey Roxas.

With the market closing on Tuesday with upward momentum, Roxas said further gains were likely in the next session. *Reuters*

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF

KEPPEL PHILIPPINES MARINE, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc., shall be held on 11 June 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Manila AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 20 June 2002.
4. Presentation and Approval of the 2002 Annual Report/Audited Financial Statements
5. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
6. Election of Directors
7. Directors' Remuneration
8. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation re:
   - Primary purpose
     - to add the phrase "to lease or rent out fixed assets, equipment and other machineries for shipyard and other related operations" and to engage "in ports operations and other related activities"
   - Secondary purposes
     - to add the word "lease" and "in shipyard and ports operations" under the 1st Secondary Purpose
     - to add as No. 2 Secondary purpose "to lease real property as may be necessary in the conduct of the business"
9. Amendment of By-laws
   - Selection and Appointment of Independent Director
   - Various Committees
     - i Executive Committee
     - ii Nomination Committee
     - iii Compensation & Remuneration Committee
     - iv Audit Committee
   - Executive Vice President
   - Treasurer
   - External Auditor
   - Internal Auditor
   - Annual & Special Meeting
   - Period to send out Notice of Stockholders' meeting
10. Appointment of External Auditors
11. Such other matters as may be properly come up before the meeting
12. Adjournment

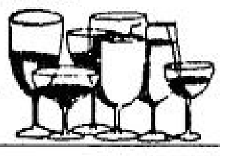
The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 7 May 2003 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the meting

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on 7 May 2003 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring your Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of the Manila AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue cor Makati Avenue, Makati City Registration shall start at 2:30 p.m.

(Sgd.) MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ
Corporate Secretary

PLiDT

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

DON'T look now but Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka Shing's son, Richard, who controls Hong Kong Telecom, has gained an indirect foothold within Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

According to the Monday disclosure given by PLDT's controlling shareholder First Pacific Co. to HK authorities, lawyer Robin Nicholson has joined the First Pacific board as an independent director, along with Philippine Ambassador to the United States and ex-Salim executive Albert del Rosario.

Nicholson, according to the disclosure, is also special adviser to the board of PCCW, the telecom conglomerate that acquired HK Telecom, the colony's equivalent of PLDT, in August 2000.

Chaired by Richard Li, the aggressive 37-year-old son of the colony's biggest taipan, PCCW has significant telecom investments in Australia and throughout the region save the Philippines.

We asked two of First Pacific/PLDT CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan's "cavalry" officers what a PCCW/HK Telecom lawyer could be doing in First Pacific board, possibly reviewing PLDT operations and plans, but the two gentlemen have not obliged us with an answer as of press time.

From Kapitan to Doctor

AFTER Lucio Tan donated $1 million to the university and previously $400,000 worth of bottled water to the island's typhoon victims, the University of Guam decided to acknowledge his generosity and his large business presence in the US territory by conferring an honorary doctorate in humane letters on the taipan.

The conferment was made this weekend, in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of Columbus Development Corp., the Kapitan's first investment in Guam.

The Guam Pacific Daily News also carried a supplement to mark the occasion, carrying the customary congratulatory messages from the governor, congressman and speaker of the island's congress.

What should be of interest to Philippine business chroniclers is that the Guam daily enumerated the taipan's known business interests on the island, which according to the 69-year-old Tan he has made his second home.

These investments include Micronesia Mall (apparently the island's biggest shopping mall), Acetown Corp., American Bakery, Goodwind Development Corp., Goodwind Travel and Tours, Grandspan Development, Oceanic Bank, Pan Micronesia Development Corp., Polo Investment, Toppy Furniture and Appliances, and the local branches of Philippine Airlines, Allied Bank and Philippine National Bank.

Rockin' and rollin'

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo is still a rock and roll fan at heart.

Friday night the President was espied at the mezzanine lobby overlooking the Mandarin's Captain's Bar, where her ex-in law Ramon "RJ" Jacinto was belting out baby boomer tunes during his weekly gig.

The President had a private

COCKTALES/ B7

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Speakers are: Karen V. de Asis, Director for Marketing, Asian Hospital and Medical Center; Reuben S.J. Pangan, Vice President for Marketing, Sales and Customer Relations, Airfreight 2100, Inc., Philippine Licensee of FedEx Express; Bienvenido S. Policarpio, Senior Vice President, Prudential Life Group, Inc.; Antonio S. Ventosa, Managing Director, Leo Burnett; and Marie B. Lee, Managing Director, Taylor, Nelson, Sofres Research.

Schedule June 17, 18 & 20, 2003 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)
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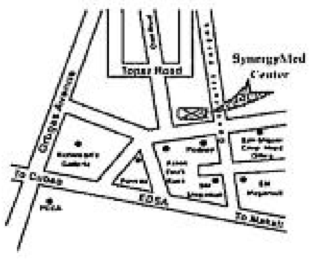

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318i Executive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,900,000.00	1,850,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
Other Cars					
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	685,000.00	660,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
316i	2002	Titanium Silver	20k	1,375,000.00	1,325,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	6k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	5k	1,870,000.00	1,820,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,780,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	835,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,050,000.00	3,000,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	2,825,000.00	2,775,000.00

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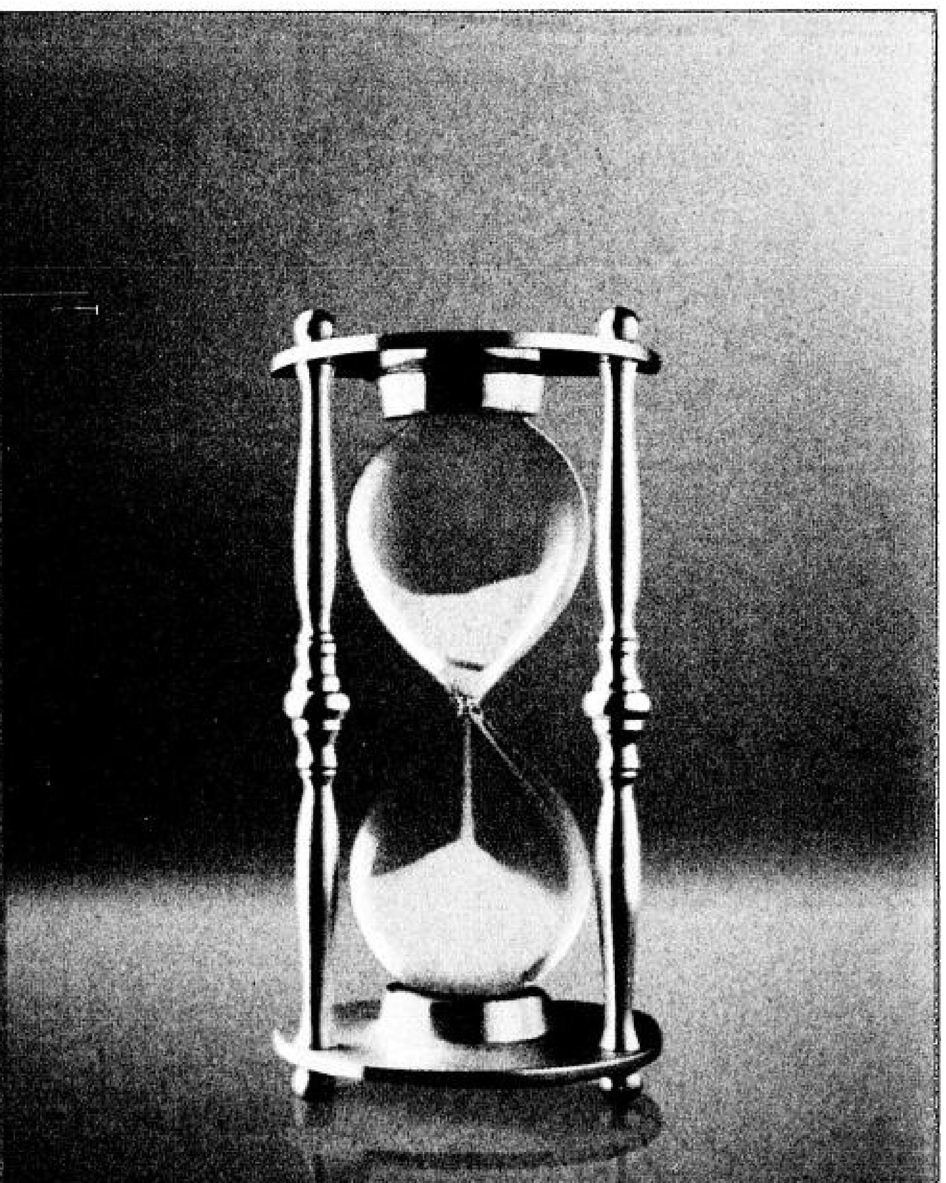

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Hacienda Luisita: Test case in corporate agrarian reform

SPECIAL REPORT

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

(First of three parts)

TARLAC CITY—There is more to corporate agrarian reform than the usual buzzwords of business—simplify, clarify, economize.

In the case of Hacienda Luisita here, touted as the country's test case in corporate agrarian reform, simplifying is lost in a corporate web, clarifying is muddled by roles defined by decades of landowner-tenant-worker relations, and economizing is seen through an hour glass that is either half-filled or half-empty.

Launched during the term of former President Corazon Aquino, whose family owns Hacienda Luisita, corporate agrarian reform was introduced in the country through the stock distribution option (SDO).

This scheme aimed to convey land ownership to tenants of huge plantations through shares of stock rather than the actual distribution of land to beneficiaries.

The scheme was offered as an option to corporate landowners through Presidential Proclamation 131 and Executive Order 229. Both issued on July 22, 1987, the two documents spelled out Aquino's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp), which expanded land reform coverage to other crops like sugar.

It was also offered through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law or Republic Act 6657 enacted on June 7, 1988.

On May 11, 1989, during the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the Cojuangco family and its tenants, then Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Juico described the agreement as a "result of 10 months of sensitivity sessions" and the SDO program as the "first in the sugar industry."

Newsline, a local newspaper that covered the MOA signing, quoted Juico as saying then that the "SDO program shows that CARP can work in corporate entities like Hacienda Luisita without destroying Philippine agriculture."

Juico also said the MOA "finally laid to rest the agrarian reform debate at Hacienda Luisita."

After six agrarian reform secretaries and four presidents in 14 years, how did the SDO fare at the 6,000-hectare Luisita sugar estate?

Lost in corporate web

Aling Fidela is a beneficiary of Luisita's SDO. She received her first set of 796 shares of stock in 1990 computed on the number of days she had worked in the farms.

In 1991, Aling Fidela got 471 shares. She also got 429 shares in 1992, 352 in 1993, 687 in 1994, 509 in 1995, 876 in 1996, 744 in 1997, 680 in 1998 and 805 in 1999 or a total of 6,349 shares in 10 years. Each share has a par value of P1.

Her shares are classified as Class A under the amended articles of incorporation of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI).

Aling Fidela and the rest of the Luisita beneficiaries own 33.296 percent of this corporation.

HLI was incorporated on Aug. 23, 1988, a year after Aquino issued EO 229 and two months after RA 6657 was enacted into law. Its incorporators are Pedro Cojuangco, Josephine Reyes, Teresita Lopa, Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Paz Teopaco, brothers and sisters of Aquino.

THEN Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Juico signs the MOA as witness to the agreement between Tarlac Development Corp. and farmer beneficiaries of Hacienda Luisita's Stocks Distribution Option. Signing for Tadeco is Don Pedro Cojuangco while Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinense looks on.

On May 10, 1989 or a day before the SDO agreement was to be forged between the Cojuangcos and their tenants, the Securities and Exchange Commission approved HLI's application to increase its authorized capital stock to P400 million divided into 400 million shares.

Of these shares, 150 million are Class A shares and the remaining 250 million, Class B. Class A shares represent stocks to be issued to qualified beneficiaries of the SDO while the B shares are the unrestricted common shares.

As holder of Class A shares, Aling Fidela, for 10 years from and after the date of the distribution of their shares, cannot sell, transfer or convey them unless through hereditary succession or in favor of qualified and registered beneficiaries of Luisita and upon approval of DAR.

HLI in effect acts as an intermediary corporation carved out from the Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco) to carry out the Cojuangcos' compliance to the CARP.

Tadeco is a 46-year-old company that bought Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) and the 6,453-hectare Hacienda Luisita from the Spanish Compania General de Tobacos de Filpinas (Tabacalera) in 1958.

Tadeco bought Tabacalera through a loan from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and a dollar loan from the Manufacturer's Trust of New York covered by dollar guarantees by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

Tadeco's current board of directors is practically the same group of incorporators of HLI while its stockholders include members of the Cojuangco family and their children, including those of Aquino.

As the mother company, Tadeco had transferred and conveyed its agricultural land and other agriculture-related property to HLI. This agricultural land measures 4,915.75 hectares valued at P196.63 million (average cost per hectare is P40,000) while the agriculture-related assets are valued at P393.924 million, twice as much as the value of the land.

Extra benefits?

At start up, therefore, HLI had total assets worth P590.554 million with the farm workers' interest defined by the percentage contribution of the agricultural lands in the corporate assets, thus the 33.296-percent share.

This percentage share is equivalent to 118,391,976.85 shares of stock drawn from the total subscribed capital stock of 355,531,462 to be distributed to beneficiaries for free.

All these were part of the 1989 agreement, including two other items that Juico described then as "extra benefits not mandated by CARP."

These were: 1) the guarantee to enjoy rebates equivalent to 3 percent of the gross sales annually, and 2) the distribution of the 240-square meter homelots to beneficiary families, also for free. These extras would be given on top of the farm workers' regular pay.

The stock's distribution, however, would take place in 30 years. Specifically, at the end of each year, HLI would arrange with Tadeco the distribution to the beneficiaries of 1/30 of the 118,391,976.85 block based on actual "man days" (the actual number of days spent in the farm) of each farm worker.

According to the HLI's 2002 financial report, 51,475,788 shares of the capital stock had already been distributed to the beneficiaries.

Unfortunately for Aling Fidela, who had worked at the Hacienda since the Tabacalera days, retirement had cut short by 20 years her rights to full acquisition of her shares as legitimate beneficiary of agrarian reform.

Corporate layering

Alejandro Tamayo, a general foreman belonging to the list of seasonal workers of Luisita, received a cash bonus of P12,000 from HLI which, he says, was his share in the proceeds of some 500 hectares of land sold by the company.

Ronaldo Sacay, another beneficiary but a casual employee, received P357.67 which, according to his payment notice, represented his share from the "3-percent share of beneficiaries on the sale of 100 hectares of land at P2.5 million per hectare factor per share = .21017422."

Tamayo says he believes that the 500 hectares sold by HLI were part of the agricultural land that represented the farm workers' contribution to the corporation. That property was brought before the city council of Tarlac for reclassification.

But Tamayo claims that while the hearing on the reclassification of the land was going on, a decision on the petition was issued.

As this is already beyond them, he says they should be given the corresponding 33 percent from the proceeds of the sale.

Sacay, for his part, says he does not understand what the numbers in his payment notice represent. All he knows is that the HLI sold properties and what he received was his share based on the number of days he worked at the farm.

Controversial land sale

HLI's sale of a 500-hectare property is confirmed by a Jan. 5, 2001 letter of the Azcuna Yorac Arroyo and Chua law offices to lawyer Deinrado Simon Dimalibot, then director of the Department of Agrarian Reform's special concerns staff.

The letter was in response to a special order of then Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales to look into various concerns raised by a group of farm workers-beneficiaries, one of which was the sale of the said property.

"The HLI sold 500 hectares of the converted land for… P2.5 million per hectare, 300 hectares were sold to Luisita Industrial Park Corp. for the construction of an industrial estate and 200 hectares were sold to Luisita Realty Corp. (LRC) for the establishment of a residential enclave," a document obtained by the INQUIRER from CAT's public affairs office said.

The sale of the 300-hectare property to the Luisita Industrial Park Corp. (LIPC), however, was not carried out directly by HLI. Instead it assigned a parcel of land to Centennary Holdings Inc. (CHI) in exchange for the issuance of shares of stock amounting to P12 million representing 12 million shares of stock.

HLI's financial statement described CHI as its wholly owned subsidiary. CHI was incorporated on Nov. 11, 1996 while the deed of assignment between HLI and CHI was executed on Dec. 13 of the same year.

CHI has an authorized capital stock of 12,100,000 shares, all of which are issued and fully paid for.

In 1998, CHI sold the 300-hectare property to LIPC for P750 million, payable in five equal annual installments that ended in January 2002.

According to their 2002 financial reports, CHI declared dividends of P11.40 per share and a net income of P125,658,698 while the HLI declared dividends of 4 centavos per share and a net income of P14,060,955.

HLI reflected CHI's profits in its report, but this was depleted by losses from operations attributed to high administrative and general expense.

Land reclassification

How was HLI's 500-hectare agricultural land converted to non-agricultural purpose?

The initial step was done by the LRC when it applied for the reclassification of land use for 3,290 hectares of the hacienda for and on behalf of itself and its sister corporations HLI, Tadeco, LIPC, CAT and the Luisita Golf and Country Club.

The reclassification was granted by the Tarlac municipal council on Sept. 1, 1995, through Resolution 280 that approved Municipal Ordinance 95-004.

The ordinance amended the municipal zoning ordinance of Tarlac with the reclassification of the 32,957,212 square meters of agricultural land "into residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use in accordance with the Luisita land use plan."

Two weeks later, on Sept. 14, 1995, the Tarlac provincial board passed Resolution 118, which approved Municipal Ordinance 95-004, saying it "interposes no objection to the re-classification and mixed land use" of the said property.

From this reclassified block, 500 hectares were plucked out and applied for conversion before the DAR, which was subsequently approved by then Agrarian Reform Secretary Ernesto Garilao.

HLI's request for conversion was supported by a feasibility study conducted by the University of Asia and the Pacific (then the Center for Research and Communication) on the economic potentials the property can generate if it is used as an industrial estate. *(To be continued)*

INTEREST RATES

June 3, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 3-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 2-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	7.1364	7.1539
3 Months	7.1250	7.1000
6 Months	7.8011	7.6746
1 Year	8.2404	8.1846
2 Years	9.0019	8.9000
3 Years	9.9423	9.7904
4 Years	10.5481	10.4212
5 Years	10.9769	10.8673
7 Years	11.5288	11.4173
10 Years	11.8346	11.6769
20 Years	12.1167	12.0932
25 Years	12.6596	12.5423

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of June 4, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)		1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	620,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	Please Call	-
Camp John Hay	-	230,000
Canlubang	460,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	150,000
Cebu Country Club	Please Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	180,000
Club Filipino	110,000	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	185,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	190,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	-	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	135,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		160,000
Mimosa (Individual)		120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	300,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	270,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)		450,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	75,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	130,000	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,250,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	660,000	745,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	120,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,300,000	6,600,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 3, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	240,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	37.5	39	37.5	39	638,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24.25	24	24.25	38,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	26	26.5	147,500
Philippine National Bank	19	20	19	19.75	787,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	14,600
Security Bank Corp.	10	10	10	10	50,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1480	1450	1475	3,560
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1090	1080	1090	4,790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	14	13.25	14	31,100
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	30,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	6,330,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	600	605	595	600	145,670
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.039	6,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	560,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	440	455	440	452.5	169,720
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	2,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	2,068,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.9	10.5	9.9	10.25	1,051,000
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	5,190,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.56	270,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	144,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.46	1,350,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.6	2.75	2.6	2.75	72,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	998,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	34,800
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63.5	63.5	46,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	74,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	11,033,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	11	11	200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	170,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.7	1.8	677,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	32,360,000
A Brown Company Inc	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	330,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	710,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.1	8.4	8	8.4	834,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.17	1,750,000
Music Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	400,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.65	60,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	140,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.68	64,000
Pryce Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	90,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	800,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.43	0.45	1,300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.5	14	13.5	14	180,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	5	4.9	5	15,758,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,510,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.84	0.87	0.84	0.87	9,190,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	3,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	209,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	8,671,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	9,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	320,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	250,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	1,030,000

DISCLOSURES

DMCI Holdings Inc. said a total of 1,670 preferred shares redeemed for the month of May will be delisted from the official registry of the Philippine Stock Exchange effective June 4. This brings the total number of its outstanding preferred shares to 309,390.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission imposed a fine of P123,300 on Makati Finance Corp. for the late filing of the initial statement of beneficial ownership of securities. An additional fine of P16,700 was imposed for the late filing of its quarterly financial reports for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 2002.

* * *

MARIWASA Manufacturing Inc. elected the following officers: Edison Co Seteng, chair, president and GM; Kajohndet Sangsuban, vice chair; Ferdinand Edwin Co Seteng, EVP; Pramoth Phromaue, special assistant.

* * *

MANILA Bulletin Publishing Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 10, 10 a.m., at the Quezon Hall, Philippine Columbian Association, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 3, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.850629	1.000000	53.283000
Japan	Yen	0.007173	0.008432	0.449300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.392565	1.637100	87.229600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109076	0.128230	6.832500
Switzerland	Franc	0.654029	0.768876	40.968000
Canada	Dollar	0.620897	0.729927	38.892700
Singapore	Dollar	0.492263	0.578704	30.835100
Australia	Dollar	0.558083	0.656082	34.958000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.256491	2.652731	141.345500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226835	0.266667	14.774300
Brunei	Dollar	0.490842	0.577034	30.746100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000121	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020428	0.024015	1.279600
UAE	Dirham	0.231615	0.272287	14.508300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.175600	62.639500
Argentina	Peso	0.298991	0.351494	18.728700
Brazil	REAL	0.286311	0.336587	17.934400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134677	0.158326	8.436100
India	Rupee	0.018079	0.021254	1.132500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223880	0.263193	14.023700

Neda chief . . .

From page B1

He said that while the country might be experiencing a trade deficit, it has been performing well in terms of inflows coming from services as the amount of remittance from overseas Filipino workers continued to increase.

According to Neri, the movement of the peso against the dollar should also be predicted in term of the performance of economic indicators of the United States. "Looking at the same parameters, the United States has a much worse trade balance and current accounts balance problem than the Philippines—maybe 100 times worse. That's why the US dollar is weakening," said Neri.

Neri added that the major reason that could have pulled the peso to a very low level was the rising costs of crude oil in the first quarter of the year due to the US-Iraq war, but stressed that the said problem has died down after the war lasted shorter than expected and after oil prices have started to go down.

"I can't see how the peso would drop to that level. (UBS Warburg) should calculate their numbers better," Neri said.

FPHC vows to pay creditors in 30 days

By Elena R. Torrijos

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. has promised to deliver to its creditor-banks P1 billion from the "sale of an asset" and the proceeds from a $35-million long-term loan in 30 days as payment for a $60-million debt.

"It (FPHC) has promised to work on completing the inflows that it had informed us about. It seemed confident it would complete it in 30 days," a senior official of a creditor bank said.

However, the banker said the expected cash flows would still not be enough and that creditor banks would have to restructure the balance.

Creditor banks remained skeptical that FPHC would be able to pay. They said FPHC, which guaranteed the facility, had been assuring the creditors that full payment would be made but it never made good on its promise.

Also, the banker said FPHC had disclosed only recently to banks that dividends from its power generation company, Sta. Rita, were earmarked for its Manila North Tollway Corp. project although the Lopez firm had said that the cash flow would be used to pay its debt falling due in May.

In a disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission last week, the Lopez-controlled FPHC said FGHC International, a wholly owned Cayman Island subsidiary, was able to pay only $10 million of the $70-million facility due last May 22 and that the lenders agreed in principle to extend the repayment date to end of June.

"FPHC expects to generate sufficient funds to answer for the obligations under the facility by means of dividends and through FGHC International's issuance of short-term notes in the amount of $35 million to AIMCF (Cayman Islands) Ltd. as disclosed last April 30, 2003," FPHC assistant information officer Rodolfo Waga Jr. said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange last month.

Waga further explained that the proposed $35 million in short-term notes would, likewise, allow another set of investors to purchase additional guaranteed notes amounting to $35 million.

In the meantime, Waga also disclosed that FGHC International settled also on May 22 its obligations under its $5-million flotation.

With the non-payment of the bulk of the $70-million facility, Philippine Rating Services Corp. last week scaled down its rating for FPHC's P800 million in long-term commercial paper from PRS A to PRS Baa. PRS Baa is defined as: "Neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time..." The outstanding LTCPs will mature in three tranches, as follows: P280 million each in November and December 2003 and P240 million in January 2004.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF

KEPPEL PHILIPPINES HOLDINGS, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of *Keppel Philippines Holdings, Inc.*, shall be held on **11 June 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Manila AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 20 June 2002.
4. Presentation of Annual Report and Approval of Audited Financial Statements
5. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
6. Amendment of the By-Laws
   - Selection and Appointment of Independent Director
   - Various Committees
     - Executive Committee
     - Nomination Committee
     - Compensation & Remuneration Committee
     - Audit Committee
   - External Auditor
   - Internal Auditor
   - Annual Meeting
   - Period to Send out Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders
7. Election of Directors
8. Directors Remuneration
9. Re-appointment of External Auditor
10. Such other matters as may be properly come up before the meeting
11. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **7 May 2003** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the metting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on **7 May 2003** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring your Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of the Manila AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City. Registration shall start at 1:30 p.m

(Sgd.) **MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ**
Corporate Secretary

Deutsche Bank names new country officer

DEUTSCHE Bank has appointed Enrico Cruz its chief country officer in the Philippines effective July 1 this year.

Cruz replaced Michael Hellbeck, who has been promoted and transferred to Taiwan as chief country officer and head of the global banking division for the bank there.

In addition to his role as chief country officer, Cruz will keep his post as head of global markets for the Philippines.

Cruz joined Deutsche Bank at the time the Manila branch was established in 1995. As head of the global markets here, he oversees the trading and sales activities in foreign exchange, money markets, fixed income, derivatives and debt capital markets. Prior to this, Cruz was a senior vice president at CityTrust Banking Corp.

In announcing the appointment, Kenneth Borda, Deutsche Bank CEO-Asia Pacific said, "Eric Cruz has made a significant contribution to the establishment, development and market reputation of Deutsche Bank in the Philippines.

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Year	Model	Color	Mileage	Price	Status
2002	BMW 316i	Steel Gray	7Tk	1,400,000.00	Sale Pending
2002	BMW 316i	Titanium Silver	5Tk	1,450,000.00	Sold
2002	BMW 318iA	Alpine White	2Tk	1,815,000.00	Sold
2002	BMW 318iA Exec.	Titanium Silver	10Tk	1,950,000.00	
2001	BMW 330diesel	Black Sapphire	13Tk	2,400,000.00	Sold
2002	BMW 525iA Exec.	Blue Water	6Tk	2,900,000.00	
2001	BMW X5 3.0d	Topaz Blue	12Tk	4,060,000.00	

Other Pre-Owned BMWs

Year	Model	Color	Mileage	Price	Status
1995	BMW 316i	Boston Green	48Tk	650,000.00	Sale Pending
1997	BMW 316i	Boston Green	33Tk	700,000.00	
1998	BMW 316i	Arktis Silver	55Tk	780,000.00	Sale Pending
1998	BMW 320iA	Calypso Red	50Tk	850,000.00	Sold
1998	BMW 320iA	Arktis Gray	60Tk	690,000.00	
2002	BMW 318iA M-sport	Black Sapphire	10Tk	1,975,000.00	Sale Pending
1997	BMW 523iA	Canyon Red	40Tk	1,550,000.00	
1999	BMW 520iA	Aspen Silver	21Tk	1,800,000.00	Sold
1999	BMW 520iA	Alpine White	29Tk	1,750,000.00	

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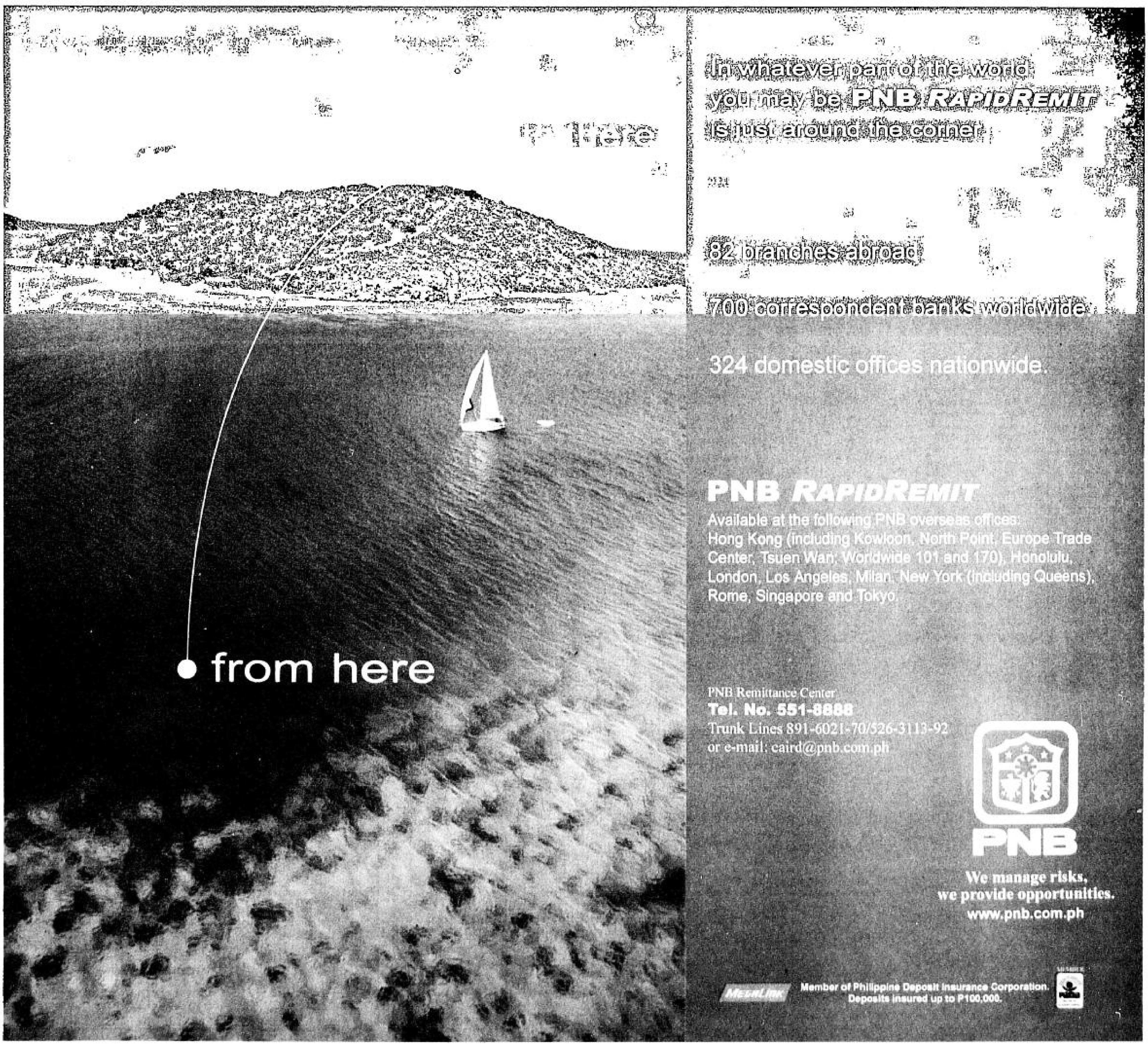

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Tindera M/F 747-0360

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. Renato L. Samson & Remedios C. Samson was extrajudicially settled among their heirs under a public document on May 27 2003 as per Doc. No. 962 Page No. 98; Book 440; Series Of 2003 before Atty. Salvador R. Aguinaldo of Mla (PDI May 28, June 4 & 11 2003)

Notice is hereby given that affidavit of Self Adjudication of estate of late Angelina F. Comsti has settled as per Doc. No. 217, Page No. 44, Book No. LII, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. El Cid C. Fajardo in Pasig City (PDI-May 21, 28, June 4, 20031

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED AND EMPTY STEEL DRUMS

"as is, where is and take all"
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 19, 2003, AT 2:00 PM

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the drums at the following locations

LOCATION	QUANTITY	FLOOR PRICE
1. BASCO Diesel Plant	348 pcs.	P15,225.00 / lot
2. BOAC Diesel Plant	101 pcs.	4,425.00 / lot
3. CALAPAN Diesel Plant	667 pcs.	29,173.00 / lot
4. CALAYAN Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
5. CASIGURAN Diesel Plant	150 pcs.	65,275.00 / lot
6. ITBAYAN Diesel Plant	15 pcs.	650.00 / lot
7. TORRIJOS Diesel Plant	5 pcs.	225.00 / lot
8. AGUTAYA Diesel Plant	180 pcs.	7,875.00 / lot
9. ARACELI Diesel Plant	410 pcs.	17,925.00 / lot
10. BALABAC Diesel Plant	200 pcs.	8,750.00 / lot
11. BROOKES POINT Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
12. BUSUANGA Diesel Plant	51,620 pcs.	2,258,375.00 / lot
13. CAGAYANCILLO Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot
14. CULION Diesel Plant	409 pcs.	17,900 / lot
15. CUYO Diesel Plant	12,752 pcs.	557,900.00 / lot
16. EL NIDO Diesel Plant	1,510 pcs.	66,075.00 / lot
17. LINAPACAN Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot
18. NARRA Diesel Plant	688 pcs.	30,100 / lot
19. PUERTO PRINCESA Diesel Plant	109 pcs.	4,775.00 / lot
20. ROXAS Diesel Plant	280 pcs.	12,250.00 / lot
21. SAN VICENTE Diesel Plant	479 pcs.	20,950.00 / lot
22. TAYTAY Diesel Plant	21 pcs.	925.00 / lot
23. PALANAN Diesel Plant	282 pcs.	12,350 / lot
24. LUBUAGAN Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
25. SABTANG Diesel Plant	30 pcs.	1,325.00 / lot
26. MAMBURAO Diesel Plant	142 pcs.	6,200.00 / lot
27. ROMBLON Diesel Plant	70 pcs.	3,075.00 / lot
28. MARINAWA Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of June 19, 2003 at Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, NPC, Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and read publicly. For the bid form at P50.00 per set, additional information and for inspection permit, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call tel. no. 922-84-31 or 9245-384. Inquiries may also be addressed to Mr. G.S. ALPAJORA, Manager-SPUG Luzon Operations, 4th Floor, NPC Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila with tel. no. 527-48-89 / Mr. E.A. VELOSO, Manager-SPUG Visayas Operations, 3rd Floor, Martinez Bldg., Jones Ave., Cebu City with tel. no. (032) 253-31-94 / Mr. A.H. ALSREE, Manager-SPUG Mindanao Operations, Sto. Niño Drive, Putik Road, Tumaga, Zamboanga City with tel. no. (062) 991-27-57. Deadline for the issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m. June 18, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/ reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department:

(Sgd.) F.B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI–June 2, 3 & 4, 2003)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-06A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 20, 2003; 10:00 AM			
A1	1 SET	BATTERY GROUND FAULT LOCATOR	3PSMDS-03-029
A2	1 SET	ULTRAPROBE LEAK DETECTOR	3PSMDS-03-032

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting May 29, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/ execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI – June 4, 2003)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites all registered Janitorial Service Providers duly registered with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) to apply for eligibility screening and bid for janitorial and other support services requirement of PEZA.

Approved Budget Cost = PhP 3,938,171.00.

Contract period is for one (1) year.

Eligibility Screening/pre-qualification documents may be secured upon presentation of PEZA Certificate of Registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the BAC Secretariat 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City from June 09 to 20, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM only. Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than 3:00 PM of 27 June 2003. All participating bidders will be informed in writing of their qualification or disqualification.

For this purpose a pre-bid conference will be held on 16 July 2003, 2:00 PM at the Social Hall, 6/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

All pre-qualified bidders shall submit their sealed bid proposals in four (4) sets – one (1) original and three (3) copies, accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total budget cost in the form of a surety bond (valid for 120 days) callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission, on or before 10:00 AM of 04 August 2003 to the BAC at the Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance & Administration 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City. The bids shall be opened at 2:00 PM on the same date. Late bidders shall not be admitted. Official time shall be the PEZA clock.

PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuring any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to PEZA.

The CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 4 & 11, 2003)

Summit leaders pledge to bolster global economy

EVIAN, France—World leaders tried to put the trans-Atlantic rift over the war in Iraq behind them, with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder pledging firm support to build a stable and prosperous Iraq.

Summit host Chirac and other G-8 leaders meeting in this Alpine resort projected outward harmony, with leaders who vehemently opposed US President George W. Bush's war course making a conspicuous show of shaking his hand.

The leaders met in the seclusion of a luxury hotel overlooking Lake Geneva, away from a series of protests against their gathering and the trend toward globalization that they represent. For the third straight night, thousands of protesters clashed with riot squads that fired tear gas, rubber pellets and a water cannon in nearby Geneva.

The G-8—composed of the world's seven wealthiest industrial nations and Russia—also pledged to redouble efforts to counter global terrorism.

Privately, the leaders purposefully shrank from discussing their differences over Iraq, trying to propel their relationship forward.

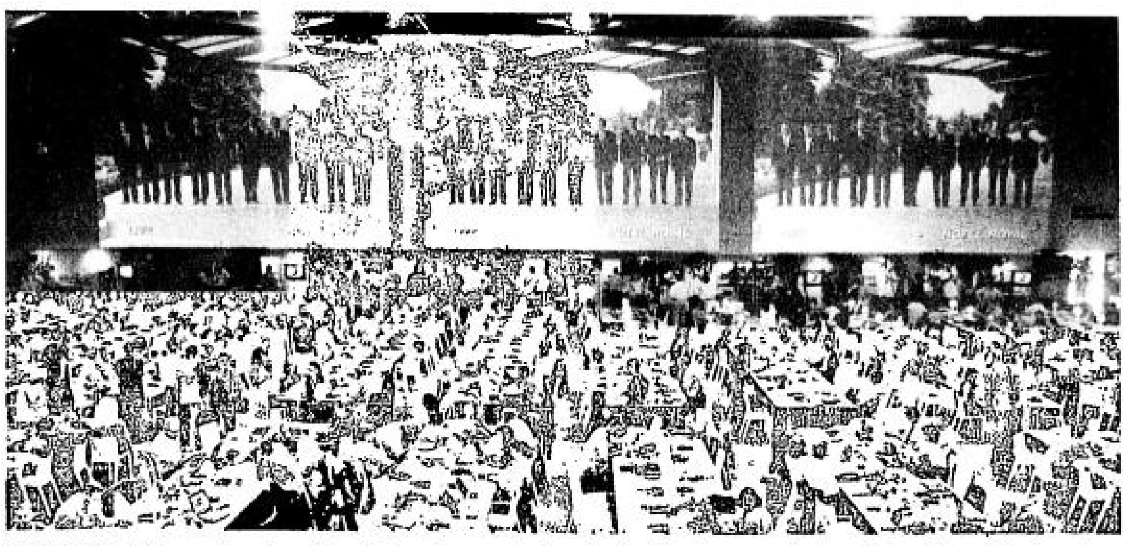
"We had a good meeting. Because it could have been a disaster," Chretien told reporters. "We realized we had to look to the future instead of the past, and everybody took that stand, with positive effect."

There were even warm words between Bush and Chirac, who had been bitterly estranged over Iraq.

Bush praised Chirac's knowledge of the Middle East and promised to consult with him on his diplomatic push to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two leaders may even meet in the United States in September at the sidelines of the General Assembly, Chirac said.

"French-US relations are 200 years old and will, believe me, continue for a long time," he said.

More than forgotten, the acrimony of the past months was buried.



SCREENS at the center show the G8 leaders posing for the family photo at the Royal Parc Hotel during the G8 Summit in Evian June 2. The Group of Eight leaders meet in Evian for the June 1-3, 2003 G8 Summit to seek ways to revive the sluggish global economy and halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction. AFP

"We must be frank. We went through a difficult period. There was no question where Jacques Chirac stood" on the war, Bush said. "That is why I can say we had good relations, because we are able to be very honest with each other."

Spinning ahead, the German chancellor's chief political adviser said Europe and the United States were equally committed to establishing a stable Iraq.

Still, none of the G-8 nations made new offers to support the rebuilding effort financially, although the United States is planning to hold a donors conference among rich nations later this year.

Schroeder, speaking on German television, described broad agreement "to leave behind the conflicts over the Iraq war."

While politics usually grab the attention at what is supposed to be an economic forum, the leaders asserted they had addressed many of the concerns raised by anti-globalization protesters, devoting a record amount of time to discussions to alleviate poverty in developing countries.

The leaders, who exchanged views on economic reforms, said there were hopeful signs that stronger economic growth was on the way in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Chirac called the economic discussions "very positive" and said the leaders expressed a "message of confidence" that their countries could achieve higher growth rates.

The summit ends on Tuesday with the reading of a chair's statement by Chirac and a round of news conference by the other leaders. *AP*

US manufacturing up in May, survey shows

WASHINGTON—US manufacturers pulled out of a dive in May, showing tentative signs of recovery from the Iraq war, a closely watched survey showed Monday.

The Institute for Supply Management purchasing managers' index, based on a survey of supply executives, rose to a higher-than-anticipated 49.4 points in May from 45.4 points in April.

It was the third consecutive reading below 50 points, which indicates an industry contraction. But the pace of the slide in activity clearly slowed in May.

"The manufacturing sector failed to grow in May for the third consecutive month," survey chief Norbert Ore said in a statement.

But orders, backlogs and production were expanding, and prices increased at a slower pace.

"These are all signs of encouragement that manufacturing is recovering from the decline due to the war," Ore said.

"Supply managers' comments seem to be split among those who are starting to see improvement, those who see no improvement in sight and those who are uncertain as to the direction," he added.

"Today's ISM report indicates that the double-dip recession in manufacturing may be close to an end," said Manufacturers Alliance chief economist Daniel Meckstroth.

The survey also showed manufacturers paid higher prices in May, but that the pace of a recent surge in costs had eased. The prices index fell to 51.5 points from 63.5 in April.

The results lowered expectations of a cut in interest rates by policymakers on the Federal Open Market Committee, which next meets June 24-25, Silvia said. *AFP*

Cocktales

From page B3

dinner in Tin Hau with hotelier Bubot Quicho and banker Vicente Panlilio, and later decided to listen and probably sway to the tunes she grew up with, but decided against completely letting her hair down apparently for fear that she would again be photographed, this time doing the boogie and twist while the MILF killing machine continues to inflict havoc in Mindanao.

Dionne's dilemma

A MISPRINT in the ticket caused the scheduling mix-up in Friday night's concert of singer Dionne Warwick.

Instead of 8 p.m., a number of the computer-generated TicketNet tickets had 8:30 p.m. printed as show time.

The diva, who arrived about 7:15 p.m. for her first of the two-night concert, was naturally flabbergasted when concert organizers asked her to wait half an hour more to accommodate the unwitting stragglers.

This led the now Brazil-based superstar to remind the audience of the importance of keeping appointments as her opening number for the Friday concert.

In any case, all's well that ends well.

The Saturday show began a little past 8:30 p.m. without any protest. Warwick sang effortlessly, even dancing the samba though her left foot had a slight limp, betraying her 40 years in the business. She even popped in what looked like a candy before bouncing out with "Do You Know The Way to San Jose?" without any noticeable effect on her voice.

News that a good friend had woken up after being comatose for months had obviously perked her up, as she shared the good tidings with the appreciative audience, who hummed along with song after song in the one-and-a-half hour that the superstar performed nonstop.

Too bad for those who may have missed the little-publicized show, the concert will not be shown on local TV. Apparently, it was not even videotaped.

Heard through the grapevine

A KEY aide of PLDT president/CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, Rene "Butch" Meily, has said goodbye to the company to move back to the United States, possibly to accept a professorial position in a Florida university.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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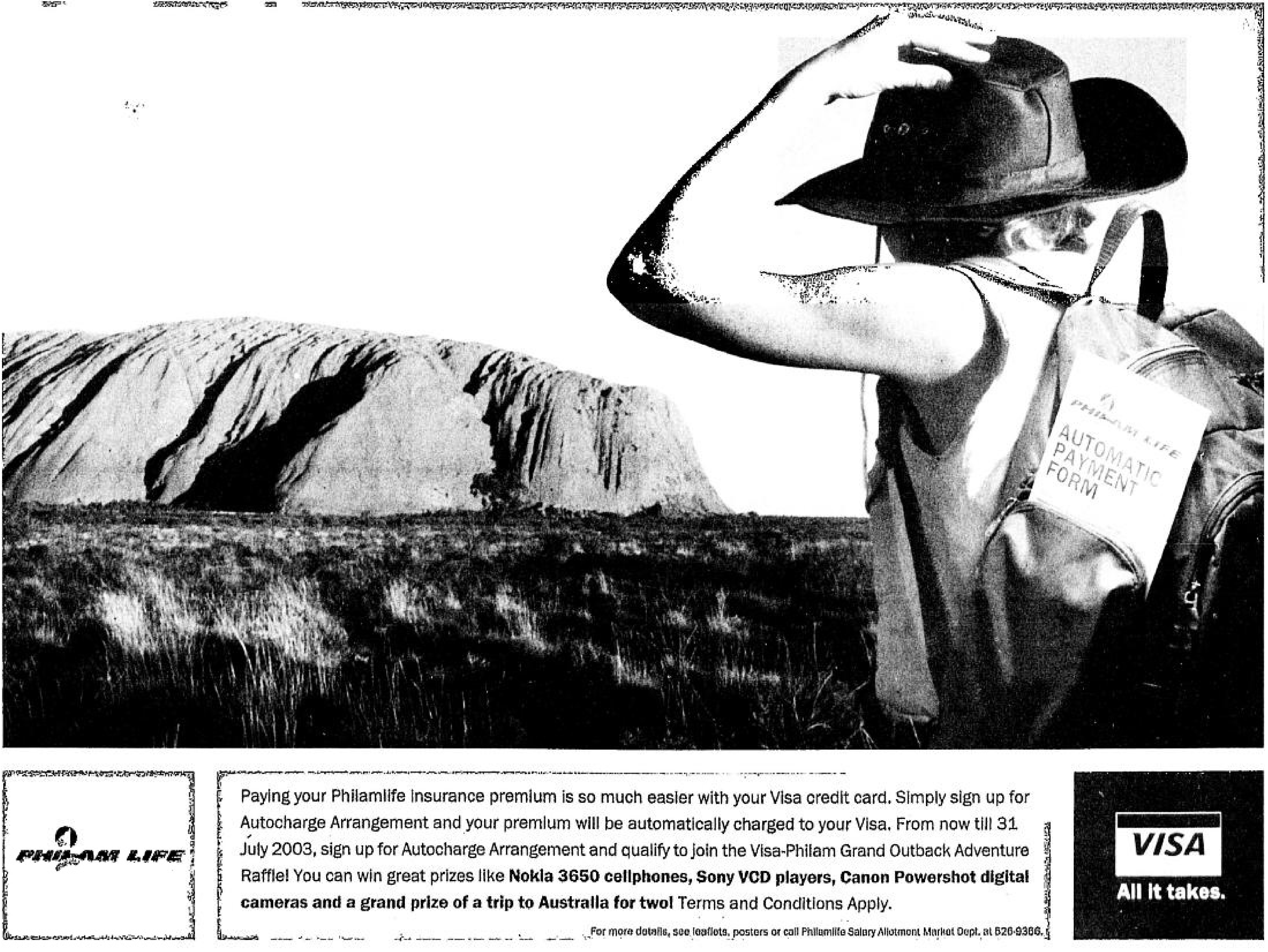

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pinakamagandang
regalo ipinagkaloob sa
akin ng Diyos.
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We always thank the LORD for having you everyday, giving us what you think is necessary and proper.
HAPPY FATHERS' DAY
God Bless you Always!
Love,
Mommy CORA, Jason,
Jovin & Jamie Ann

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Darla & Ken

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Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

To satisfy the real estate tax delinquency of the following taxpayers, computation of which includes interest, surcharges and penalties thereon as of April 30, 2003 and after substantially complying with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act. 7160, the City Mayor through the undersigned City Treasurer, hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on **June 6, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the Legislative Building 2nd Floor City Hall of Parañaque City**, the City Treasurer or his authorized representatives will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippines Currency, the real estate properties described below:

Declared Owner	Area (Sqm.)	Classification/ Delqcy. Date	Tax Dec. Numbers	Amount of Delinquency	Interest Due As of April 30, 2003	Total Amt. of Delinquency
1. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. TCT NO. 30294 BGY. BACLARAN	1,002	COM'L. LAND 1998-2003	E002-04415	1,037,070.00	522,142.20	1,559,212.20
2. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 431 BGY. BACLARAN	38.14	COM'L. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit. No C-305	E002-04428	32,069.24	17,592.35	49,661.59
3. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 432 BGY BACLARAN	38.14	COM'L. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. C-306	E002-04429	32,069.24	17,592.35	49,661.59
4. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 433 BGY. BACLARAN	252.56	COM'L. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. C-307	E002-04430	424,725.00	232,992.00	657,717.00
5. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 434 BGY. BACLARAN	118.16	RES. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. C-308	E002-04431	170,320.64	93,432.96	263,753.60
6. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 436 BGY. BACLARAN	158.90	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 402	E002-04433	76,348.80	39,701.34	116,050.14
7. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 438 BGY. BACLARAN	187.90	RES. IMPVT. 3 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 404	E002-04435	103,179.84	53,653.56	156,833.40
8. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 441 BGY. BACLARAN	174.81	RES. IMPVT. 1998-2003 Unit No. 407	E002-04438	83,992.80	43,676.22	127,669.02
9. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 458 BGY. BACLARAN	144.95	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 608	E002-04455	69,645.60	36,215.56	105,861.16
10. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 459 BGY. BACLARAN	144.95	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 701	E002-04456	69,645.60	36,215.56	105,861.16
11. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 466 BGY. BACLARAN	144.50	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 708	E002-04463	69,429.60	36,103.24	105,532.84
12. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 467 BGY. BACLARAN	144.80	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 801	E002-04464	69,573.60	36,178.12	105,751.72
13. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 475 BGY. BACLARAN	144.90	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 901	E002-04472	69,621.60	36,203.08	105,824.68
14. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 496 BGY. BACLARAN	95.30	RES. IMPVT. 1 Bedroom 1997-2003 Unit No 1108	E002-04493	53,421.20	29,305.16	82,726.36
15. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 508 BGY. BACLARAN	167.02	1997-2003 Unit No. 1402	E002-04505	88,019.68	48,285.06	136,304.74
16. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 515 BGY. BACLARAN	144.90	RES. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. 1501	E002-04512	81,225.20	44,557.64	125,782.84
17. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 523 BGY. BACLARAN	144.50	RES. IMPVT. 1998-2003 Unit No. 1601	E002-04520	69,429.60	36,103.24	105,532.84
18. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 556 BGY. BACLARAN	157.17	RES. IMPVT. 1998-2003 Unit No. 2002	E002-04553	75,517.44	39,269.06	114,786.50
19. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. BGY. BACLARAN	10,618.32	IMPROVEMENT 1993-2003 (COMMON AREA)	E002-04567	15,718,510.80	9,550,957.62	25,269,468.42
20. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 693 BGY BACLARAN	12.50	IMP PKNG NO 4 1993-2003 Unit No. 2F No. 4	E002-04569	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
21. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO 694 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 5 1993-2003 Unit No. 2F No. 5	E002-04570	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
22. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 699 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG NO 10 1993-2003 Unit No. 2F No. 10	E002-04571	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
23. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO 629 BGY BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG NO 13 1993-2003 Unit No. 2B No. 13	E002-04583	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
24. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 576 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 3 1993-2003 Unit 3B No. 3	E002-04590	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
25. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 577 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG NO 4 1993-2003 Unit No. 3B No. 22	E002-04591	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
26. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 587 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG NO 14 1993-2003 Unit No. 3B No. 14	E002-04595	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
27 STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO 588 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG NO 15 1993-2003 Unit No. 3B No. 15	E002-04596	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
28. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. TCT NO. 30295 BGY. BACLARAN	780	COM'L. LAND 1998-2003	E002-04607	807,300.00	406,458.00	1,213,758.00
29. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. TCT NO 30296 BGY BACLARAN	446	COM'L. LAND 1998-2003	E002-04608	461,610.00	232,410.60	694,020.60
			Sub-total			31,374,841.92
30. BEATRIZ CRUZ TCT NO 41658 BGY. SAN DIONISIO	1,652	COM'L LOT 1993-2002	E010-06479	485,688.00	305,091.36	790,779.36
31. GABRIEL & LAURA ELORDE BOXING AREA BALCONY BGY SAN ANTONIO	608 224	COM'L. IMPV'T. 1985-2002 1988-2002	E009-09527	511,673.90	763,578.01	1,275,251.91
32. BENITO DELA CRUZ TCT NO. 107866 BGY. SAN DIONISIO	252	RES LOT 1994-2002	E010-01896	8,719.20	5,673.12	14,392.32
33. BENITO DELA CRUZ BGY SAN DIONISIO	79.56	RES. IMPV'T. 1994-2002	E010-01897	11,103.70	7,274.68	18,378.38
34. BENITO DELA CRUZ BGY SAN DIONISIO	77.75	RESL. IMPV'T. 1994-2002	E010-01898	11,103.70	7,274.68	18,378.38
35. BENITO DELA CRUZ TCT NO 107867 BGY. SAN DIONISIO	252	RES. LOT 1994-2002	E010-01943	8,719.20	5,673.12	14,392.32
36. BENITO DELA CRUZ BGY SAN DIONISIO	25.92	RES. IMPV'T. 1994-2003	E010-01944	4,295.70	2,814.52	7,110.22
			Sub-total			2,138,682.89
			TOTAL			33,513,524.81

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
City Treasurer

(PDI--May 28 & June 4, 2003)

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Day One — June 23, 2003

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2 Eureka!: Making Analytic Subjects Fun to Learn — *Ms. Queena Lee-Chua, TOYM Awardee & Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer*
3 Learning with the Brain in Mind: Neurological Basis of Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences — *Dr. Vicente G. Rosales, Jr., Neuro-psychiatrist, UST Faculty of Medicine & Surgery*
4 Making Curriculum Relevant to the Needs of the Market Place — *Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr., President, Philippine Marketing Association*
5 Lifelong Learning for Lifelong Employability — *Dr. Edicio Dela Torre, President, Education Network and Education for Life*
6 Creativity in Learning: Sponges, Energizers & Pantomime, Atbp.—*Prof. Albert M. Saldajeno, Jr., Director, Tanghalang Henyo Pedagogical Theatre Arts*

Day Two — June 24, 2003

7 The Filipino Educator: On Becoming a Servant Leader — *Dr. Federico M. Macaranas, Dean – AIM Center for Development Management*
8 The Magic of Advertising: Creating Value for the Youth — *Ms. Yoly Ong, President, Campaigns and Grey*
9 The Teacher: The Heart and Soul of Education — *Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, President, Philippine Normal University* *
10 Advocacy in Education: Espousing Worthwhile Causes for Social Change — *Prof. Ramon "Bong" Osorio, President, International Association of Business Communicators and Campaigns Advocacy*
11 Workshop: Where Do We Go From Here? — *Prof. Henry S. Tenedero, President, CLTS*

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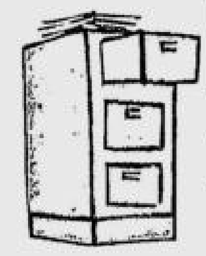

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"Only in God is my soul at rest;
from Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:2

SPO4 Horacio "Monching" Cruz Páez (Ret.)

(January 15, 1945 - June 2, 2003)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on the 2nd day of June 2003 at the age of 58.

His loving wife **Angelita Páez nee Lauchengco**; son **Jhonas Patrick**; daughter-in-law **Aida**; father **Oscar Sr.**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at No. 3 Don Basilio Bautista Boulevard cor. M. Sioson St., Paez ville, Dampalit, Malabon City.

Cremation will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 7th of June 2003, at the Eternal Garden Crematory, North Expressway, Novaliches after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Sto. Rosario Church, Dampalit.

"Go in peace my sweetheart: Be in heaven with God; He'll shower you with blessed love; And shall grant you an eternal life."

DR. SOLEDAD S. PALMA-ALEJANDRINO, O.D., LL.B.

of Cuenca, Batangas; Quezon City and Lucena City

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 30, 2003 at the age of 40.

Her loving husband Atty. Rey Oliver S. Alejandrino; sons Gandhir, Kromwell and Nixsor; mother, parents-in-law, brothers and sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred at Sto. Niño Shrine, Bago Bantay, Quezon City on Thursday, June 5, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. and will be interred on the same date at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 1:30 p.m. Mass.

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• MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The bereaved husband
Orlino S. Serrano &
children Ditas, Cheche & Mon,
and relatives of the late

ELENA CRUZ SERRANO

who joined her Creator
on May 26, 2003 at the age of 72

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with them, offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, were present at the necrological services, Novena Masses, funeral rites and who in various ways gave them comfort at the time of their great loss and sorrow.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

We Lovingly Remember

the 4th Death Anniversary of

JOSEFA BLANCO MANGAHAS

who joined her Creator on June 4, 1999

Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, *Cotabato City* .... 5:30 AM
Holy Rosary Church, *Cotabato City* .... 6:00 AM
Our Lady of Manaoag Church, ... 9:00 AM
Manaoag, Pangasinan
Sta. Perpetua Parish, *280 D. Tuazon St., Quezon City* ..... 6:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, ... 7:30 AM
Kanlaon cor. Retiro, Quezon City
Parish of the Heart of Jesus & Mary, ... 6:00 PM
West Triangle, Quezon City
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, ... 8:00 AM
Tucson, Arizona, USA
St. Odillia's Church, *Tucson, Arizona, USA* .... 9:00 AM
St. Rita Parish, *River Ridge, Louisiana, USA* .... 7:30 AM
Trinity Mission Silver Spring, *Maryland, USA* .... 9:00 AM
Chinese General Hospital Chapel .... 12:15 PM
Sacred Heart Parish Church, *Kamuning, Quezon City* ... 7:00 AM

Her loving husband **Dr. Cayetano P. Mangahas**; children **Greg & Jeannene, Edmund & Susan, Francis**; grandchildren **Tommy, Alex & Angelica**; brothers and sisters.

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Wish to extend their deepest sympathies to the family of

TEODORO M. CARIÑO, Jr.

"Uncle Mac"

Chairman

Who peacefully joined our creator on May 31, 2003
at the age of 52.
We join his bereaved family, relatives and friends in their
Prayers for eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on June 5, 2003 at Los Angeles,
California U.S.A.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

Invitation for Rebid

Date: June 1, 2003
Loan No.: PH-P200
IFRB No.: SEDIP-2002-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.

2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby announces a rebid and invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the unawarded lots of school equipment which were bid out on November 21 and 28, 2002 respectively, following the schedule below:

Equipment Package/Lot	No. of Items	Issuance of Bid Documents	Time and Date of Bid Opening
A2. Biology Equipment	16	June 6, 2003	10 00 am, July 7, 2003
C2. Home Economics Equipment	13	June 6, 2003	10 00 am, July 7, 2003

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or both lots.

4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the Office of Bids Awards Committee (BAC), Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg. II, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. # (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 loc 2019.

6. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above and payment to the DepEd cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00).

7. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building 1, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City at the time and date indicated in paragraph 2 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public.

8. Prior to bid opening, a prebid conference will be held on **June 24, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.** at the address indicated in paragraph 7.

9. The DepEd reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the equipment lots to one or more bidders

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--June 4 & 11, 2003)

INVITATION FOR BID
ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT

Loan No. 7153PH
IFB-ASF-01-2003

June 4, 2003

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits.

2. The ARMM Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of *one package or on all the packages* of the following subprojects

Package 1.	Project Code	SRI-P03-001
	Title	Center for Development Planning and Information Communication Technology
	Project Location	ARMM Compound, Cotabato City
Package 2.	Project Code	SRI-P03-002
	Title	Polloc Base Port
	Project Location	Polloc, Parang, Maguindanao
Package 3.	Project Code	SRI-P04-001
	Title	Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sulu Provincial Hospital
	Project Location	Jolo, Sulu

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City

4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 5,000 or its equivalent in a fully-convertible currency, *for each package*. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.

5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after Bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend and to be held at ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash amount stated hereunder

6. This Invitation for Bid shall be governed by the following schedule

Packages & Code Number	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bid	Bid Security in the Form of Cash Only
1. Package # 01-SRI-P03-001	6-09-03 to 6-18-03	6-18-03 at 10:00 AM	7-03-03 at 10:00 AM	P443,900.00
2 Package # 02-SRI-P03-002	6-09-03 to 6-18-03	6-18-03 at 10:00 AM	7-03-03 at 10:00 AM	P262,200.00
3 Package # 02-SRI-P04-001	6-23-03 to 7-07-03	7-07-03 at 10:00 AM	7-22-03 at 10:00 AM	P381,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2679
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email. asf@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director

(PDI - June 4 & 7, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Vitamin A and Ferrous Sulfate Tablets
IFB No. WB-BCD-03-DOH-001

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.

2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of various food supplements as follows:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Ferrous Sulfate Tablets	300,980,000	Tablets
2	Vitamin A, 100,000 IU	951,500	Capsules
3	Vitamin A, 200,000 IU	7,820,000	Capsules

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of Procurement and Logistics Service, Building 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila with telephone numbers (632) 338-3413 to 14, fax number (632) 743-9582 / 711-6831 from 2 June to 10 July 2003, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of anon-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) or US$150 including air courier for foreign bidder. The method of payment will be in cash, or bank draft. If payment is in form of bank draft, the check should be for the account of the Department of Health. Information including names of potentials bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.

6. Bids must be delivered at the HHRDB Conference Room, Department of Health, Building 12A, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila at or before 9:00 a.m. on 11 July 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.

7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the COBAC Office at 9:00 a.m. on 27 June 2003.

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 11 July 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the HHRDR Conference Room, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila

By the authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 28 & June 4 2003)

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 PAKNERS	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	ArtFilm WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 1 11:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:40 3:15 5:50 7:00 9:10 11:20	THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00 3:05 7:10 9:15, 11:20	2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE MATRIX RELOADED 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	Onstage CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS 1:50, 4:15 6:40 9:05 11:30	3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ANG TANGING INA	WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DARKNESS FALLS 1:05 3:10 5:15, 7:20 9:25 11:30	4 DARKNESS FALLS
	5 THE REAL CANCUN		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ANG TANGING INA 1:30, 3:50 6:10 8:30 10:50	5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
	6 ANG TANGING INA			
	7 DARKNESS FALLS			

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2 ANG TANGING INA

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2 X-MEN-2

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tel 930.9515

1
2 ANG TANGING INA
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 PAKNER
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
8 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY) FRIDA

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KAPIT BAHAY
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 PAKNER
6 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 FRIDA
9 AGENT CODY BANKS

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 (SDDS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 PAKNER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 PAKNER

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1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 KAPIT BAHAY
4 PAKNER
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 - 879.2029

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA

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Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
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1 PAKNERS
2 TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS) DARKNESS FALLS
5 (DTS) REAL CANCUN
6 BIGAY HILIG
7 MATRIX RELOADED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 PAKNER
2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
4 PAKNER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 JOHNNY ENGLISH
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Magic Star Cinema
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1 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 (DTS) PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KAULAYAW
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 ANGER MANAGEMENT
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BAYARAN
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.8790

1 DAYO!
2 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 PAKNERS
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 BIGAY HILIG
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 THE REAL CANCUN
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 PAKNERS
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 THE VERDICT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ANG KAPITBAHAY
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 FRIDA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 PAKNERS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BIGAY HILIG
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 THE VERDICT
11 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12 THE REAL CANCUN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 BIGAY HILIG
8 THE REAL CANCUN
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 THE VERDICT
11 PAKNERS
12 ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 THE REAL CANCUN
6 FRIDA
7 THE VERDICT
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 DARKNESS FALLS
11 PAKNERS
12 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 THE REAL CANCUN
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 THE VERDICT
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 THE REAL CANCUN
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 KAPITBAHAY
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 DARKNESS FALLS
9 PAKNERS
10 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 A MAN APART
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
5 RING 0
6 DAYO
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 SO CLOSE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 WILLARD
2 CLOSED
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 SO CLOSE
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CLOSED
8 SOULKEEPER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7126015

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 AGENT CODY BANKS
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 PAKNERS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 A MAN APART
2 PHONEBOOTH
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6 SO CLOSE

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2084

1 PHONEBOOTH
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 DARKNESS FALLS
11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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3 REAL CANCUN
4 HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 FRIDA
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6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS

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1 MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 REAL CANCUN
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 PAKNERS
8 BIGAY HILIG

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 MATRIX RELOADED
5 REAL CANCUN
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 PAKNERS
8 BIGAY HILIG

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1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNERS
4 BIGAY HILIG

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1 KIKAY
2 PAKNERS
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 REAL CANCUN
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 ANG TANGING INA

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KIKAY
5 PAKNERS

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SO CLOSE
4 PHONEBOOTH
5 RING 0
6 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 WILLARD
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 SOUL KEEPER
5 SO CLOSE
6 SO CLOSE

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‘Should I invest more money in my business?’

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

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To Spend Or Not To Spend

My favorite part of the '96 election wasn't Dole's theme song ("Dole man"). It wasn't the return of Perot's flip charts. It wasn't even the Kemp-Gore face-off. My favorite moment occurred just before Bill and Bob's first debate when the President's staff handed out a press release entitled "Debate Pre-buttal." This deftly named document refuted all the arguments they expected Dole to make during the debate. Which just goes to show:

Clinton may not be a Boy Scout but he swears by the oath "be prepared."

It sounds like you need to do a little "pre-butting" of your own and take a hard look at your business (and substitute your bank loan officer as your "opponent"). Of course, you'll want your review to include all the conventional financial benchmarks (balance sheets, P&L statements, etc.).

But also ask yourself the following questions, adapted from Collins and Porras' classic "Built to Last" (HarperCollins, 1994):

Are you keeping up with the Jones'? Remember when banks were only open from nine to three? That was in the old days before 24-hour supermarkets and an Internet that never sleeps started catering to customers' schedules. Lo and behold: the end of banker's hours. Well, take a look at your business and see if you find practices that are equally out of sync with customers' needs. You can't do this from your desk though. You have to get out and talk with your customers; visit your competitors; and stay in touch with business trends and ideas from other industries.

Do they love me or love me not? Just how loyal are your customers? Assume not very—and then do everything you can to woo them. Do customer surveys. Mingle with them on the retail floor. Talk to them when they call. Question them earnestly when they're angry.

Are you ready to take on all comers? Today ATM machines spit out postage stamps, drug stores push nickel copies, and virtually everything is for sale on the Internet. The days of clear boundaries between businesses are over.

What that means for you is you need to guard your back door and keep your eyes peeled for new competitors from unexpected directions.

None of this is easy, of course. It's hard to look at your business through the eyes of a competitor and be critical about your own affairs. But if you can, you'll gain valuable information that will help you decide if throwing money at your business is the proper strategy. Scout's honor.

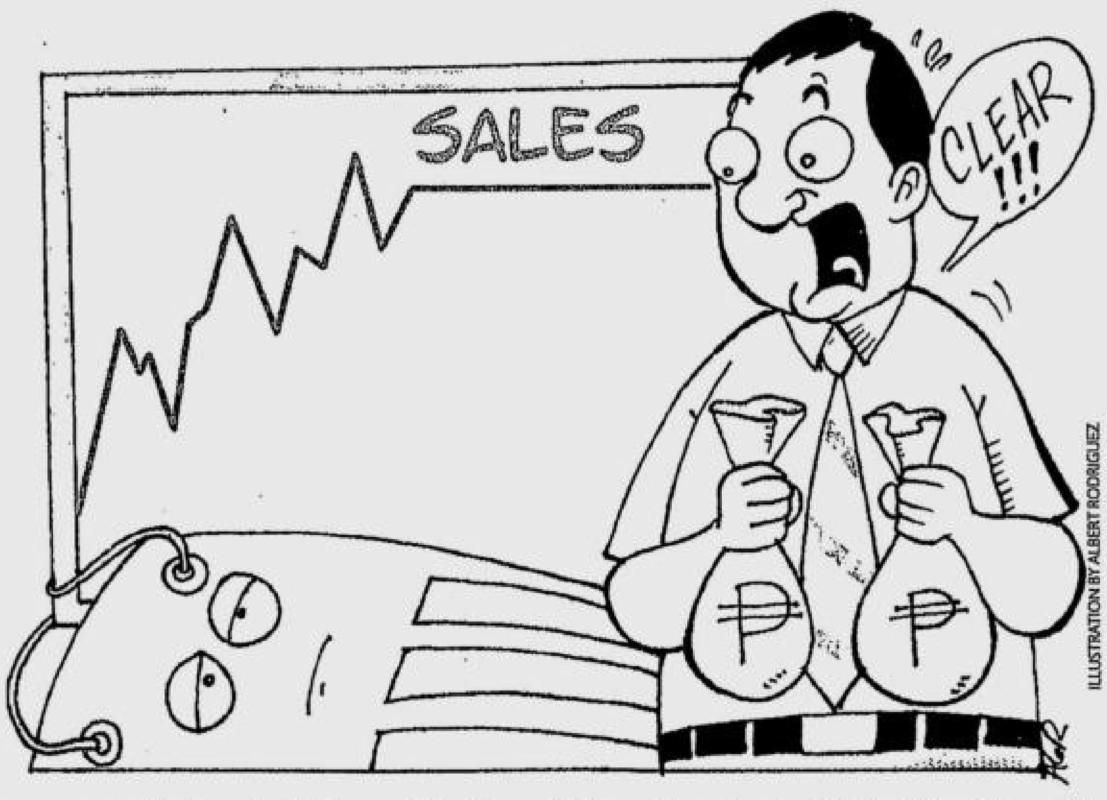


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Move over yuppies, your dads, moms are going back to work!

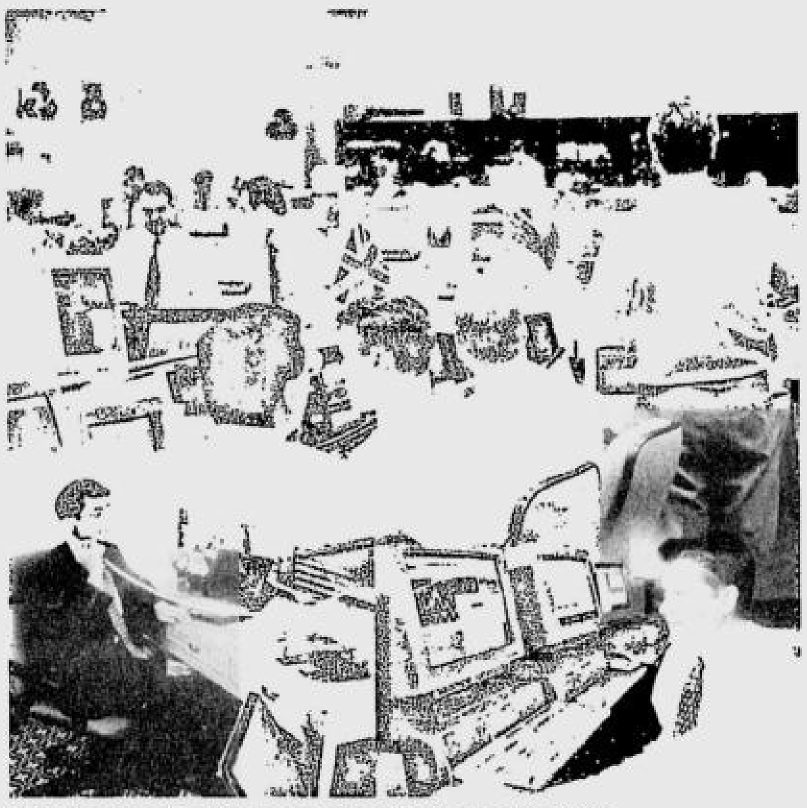
MEDICAL advances in the last 50 years have made longer life spans a reality. The United Nations predicts the Earth will be home to 3.2 million people who are 100 years of age or older by the year 2050. That's a 15-fold increase in the world's current number of centenarians in just 48 years. But these people can forget about plans to retire early or even at 65, as an ageing workforce with fewer younger generations to make up the numbers in the workplace worldwide, means that they are going to have to work longer, not only to support themselves but their economies.

The statistics are more than disturbing. According to the United Nations, the number of people worldwide who are 60 years or older currently totals around 629 million. That's one in every 10 people. By 2050, this ratio will drop to one in five (or about 2 billion people globally). 2050 will mark the first time in human history that the number of people 60+ is greater than the number of children who are aged between 0 to 14 years inhabiting the planet.

Shrinking population

Since 1950, advances in medicine and public health have produced a nearly three-fold rise in the elderly populations of OECD countries, but fertility rates have plunged. In the next 10 years, the population of Japan will start to shrink. So will the population in the European Union. In fact, Japan's population will actually start to decline after 2012 as already two-thirds of Japan's population is over 40. According to Asian Demographics Ltd, by the year 2020, 40 percent of Asia will be over 40. Ageing population problems will also hit Hong Kong, Singapore and then Korea (where the 5 to 17 age group will decline by 30 percent by 2020). Asian Demographics further predict that in the not too distant future, the labor force will even contract in places like China and Thailand.

The Commission of Global Ageing believes that Europe is also at risk. In the UK, by 2025, for every two people employed, there is likely to be one person older than 50 who is either retired or inactive. Italy's population, which is currently 57 million, is projected to decrease to 41 million by 2050. And in Germany, the working age population is expected to decrease from 56 million to 43 million in 2050. For these countries to maintain their working age population at 1995 levels up to the year 2050, Italy will need approximately 350,000 migrants each year and Germany close to 500,000 migrants.



MORE and more older people are rejoining the workforce.

GRAPHICS BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Immigration

Of course, this means that companies can no longer rely on their own countries' resources. An ageing population means that they will have fewer resources to tap into at home and therefore will need to look for alternatives. This not only means making better use of resources at home, i.e., utilizing more women and the ageing population, but also using immigrants to bolster their work forces.

Immigration could, the Commission believes, lessen the impact of ageing populations. The Commission suggests that governments encourage non-native residents to become citizens or be given permanent residency. Countries like the US are increasingly relying on immigration to make up for any shortfalls in their labor markets.

Perhaps Europe and Japan could look to countries like India, The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to recruit their new talent, as these economies are forecast to continue to grow despite increased standards of living-a factor which would normally slow population. But whether a homogenous country like Japan is likely to open its doors to immigration remains to be seen.

As businesses broaden their searches for talent so as to include a range of age groups at home and cultures from all over the world, the workforces in the next twenty years will look completely different. With the change will come a whole new set of challenges for the employer. For starters, the coming workforce will be older. People who couldn't find a job at 55 only 15 years ago will come on board at 60, 70 and even 80 years old, though for shorter periods of time. According to some futurists and trend analysts, like David Pierce Snyder, older managers are going to be back in vogue. "Experience and gray talent will be more valued..."

There'll also be more women working part-time and more women entering more senior and traditionally male-dominated roles. The workforce will also naturally be more international and multilingual as countries open their doors to more immigration.

Of course, the consequence of all this is that there'll be a workforce made up of five to six generations, ranging between 18 and 80, from a wide range of countries and backgrounds. That means there will be between three and seven generations working together as opposed to today's two or three. This will bring a whole new set of challenges for tomorrow's employers, already grappling with conflicts between baby boomers, generation X and Y. They have yet to look forward to what complications and challenges generation Z and beyond will bring to the mix. As older workers resort to part-time hours in their later years and relinquish responsibilities, they will have to become more accustomed to working for bosses who may well be the same age as their great grandchildren.

Workplace challenges

The US-based Society for Human Resource Management's (SHRM) last survey, SHRM 2002 Workplace Demographic Trends Survey, identifies some of the challenges companies will face as the demographics of the workplace change. A workforce that is ageing, more ethnically diverse, increasingly composed of nontraditional families and one in which women are entering more traditionally male-dominated jobs, will definitely require more investment in diversity training initiatives and tolerance. The survey results also indicated that health care costs, as well as issues related to diversity training and the aging of the population, were of most concern to employers.

Due to the demographic shift and with women comprising nearly half the workforce, 66 percent of the HR professionals responding to the survey noted the need for flexibility surrounding various family issues. Another 44 percent reported an increase in the need for reduced working hours and increased use of "flexitime."

But employers can do more to prepare for the future changing workforce and they'll have at their disposal an enormous untapped resource of human capital in those aged 50 and above. The United Nations found that in developed countries, just 21 percent of men and 10 percent of women aged 60 and over are still actively involved in the workforce. This group could form a valuable talent pool employers to tap into. Secondly, the need to attract and retain the best talent as the number of available workers shrinks becomes even more imperative-something that DBM is already helping employers tackle. Encouraging workers to remain in the workforce longer will become an increasingly important strategy and companies could also do more to remove barriers that discourage employment for older workers.

(Excerpts from Tomorrow's World of Work Series by Thomson/ Drake Beam Morin)

CEO crafts...

From page B0

ing employees, Kraft Foods maintains an advancement planning system. "In essence, this identifies key talents in organization, and designs and develops programs to help them move ahead,"explains Santiago. He clarifies that though he did not go through the system himself because he came in as sales director, nonetheless he feels it's a good way of nurturing and developing talent, and of creating a new generation of Kraft leaders.

Passion in life

Admittedly, Santiago's main passion in life is to succeed in any endeavor he undertakes-whether at work, at home or within the community. He says, "In order to succeed, you have to focus on your mission or goal. You have to be true to yourself and to do your best always. Lastly, you have to be guided by your own principles. I follow the golden rule."

Kraft, virtually a household name, has been good to Santiago. Since joining it four years ago, his career has had some highlights such as the time he was posted in Indonesia as CEO of the company's Indonesian subsidiary. Though it meant uprooting himself and his family, and starting all over again, it was a truly rewarding and enriching experience.

Work/life balance

Santiago, who makes it a point to strike a healthy balance between his work and family, has been happily married to Cynthia for 18 years. They have a daughter, 19, and two boys, 13 and 9. He enjoys going malling with his family and takes an active role in bringing up his kids.

Did he ever imagine he would one day be CEO of a prestigious multinational company? "Not at the start of my career, no," he replies. "Early on, all I wanted was a stable job." But he liked to dream, he adds. "I dreamed in stages, in segments. They seemed more realizable that way, more attainable." As his career progressed, one by one, his dreams took shape. "At some point, I realized I could make them come true."

What is Santiago's advice to aspiring executives and to all employees? "Don't forget to dream and never stop dreaming."

(Do you want to learn from Mr. Santiago's experiences? You can send your letters requesting for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *He will answer your letters in the "Ask Your CEO" column which eight topnotch CEOs will take turns writing.)*

Don't fall into the hyper-parenting trap

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

ONE of the gifts that come innately with being a parent is the ability to do a dozen things at the same time.

Yesterday, I rushed out of a meeting with my boss shortly before five, to race through rain-induced traffic to pick up the daughter and be at the doctor's office before the line got too long.

While stewing in traffic, I made the calls I couldn't make at the office, ran through the agenda of a meeting I was scheduled to have at seven that evening, and talked to my cook about what she had prepared for dinner that night (my sister-in-law was dropping by for dinner and I didn't want to serve leftovers).

I asked the daughter to wait for me in the driveway so that I could simply scoop her off the curb and continue on the race to the clinic. I anticipated a wait of not shorter than 20 minutes before we could see her doctor, so I lugged my laptop into the waiting room and finished off some editing work, even as I helped the daughter plan her birthday party this Saturday.

I began hyperventilating when the waiting time stretched to longer than half an hour, I was afraid I would be late for my dinner meeting. Sensing my agitation, my daughter said: "Looks like you planned for too much today and expect to do them all." The wisdom of a 12-year-old caught me off guard again.

Continuing pressure

This life of pressure and perpetual motion is what authors Alvin Rosenfeld, M.D. and Nicole Wise call hyper-parenting. In the book "Hyper-Parenting: Are You Hurting Your Child By Trying Too Hard?" (Published by St Martin's Press and available at Power Books), Rosenfeld and Wise point out that although we all have the best intentions for our children, wanting them to have the best and working to the bone to give these to them, may not be worth it at all.

Hyper-parenting makes us "feel tired and inadequate because no matter how much we have already done we could always be doing more. Guilt and anxiety become our constant companion. It's too demanding a way to live, And it doesn't make our kids, the one we are doing it all for, feel so great either. They feel anxious about needing so much, annoyed that we resent them for needing it, and perplexed about how to make us happy-which, when you come right down to it, really ought not to be their job."

Meaning in life

The way we organize our entire lives around our children's schedules and requirements may be unselfish, but it is not really good-for them or for us. As many working moms experience, the more we try to take full control, the more things fall from our hands. We may juggle two or three balls, but more than that and you'll be caught holding nothing at all. What makes us want to do so much? In a way, we have subconsciously put on our children the responsibility of giving meaning to our lives. Rosenfeld and Wise say this "is a heavy, long-tern burden our children did not ask for."

As you plan your schedule today, and for the rest of the week, catch yourself. If you are making your children alone the reason for your being, you may be headed the wrong way down the road. "Finding meaning in life is hard, yet it is something we each, individually, must struggle to do." Schedule in some time for you.

As I tucked the daughter into bed last night, she thanked me for taking her to the doctor. Then she said: "Why don't you take a week off just by yourself-no work, no kids." I just might take her advice.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor in chief of Metro Working Mom published by ABS-CBN Publishing. Email the author at An_Alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com*)*

PEOPLE at WORK

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CEO crafts success with varied work experiences

By Cecile G. Garcia

CAREER TALES

ONE advantage of being in a leadership position, according to Jeraldo F. Santiago, is that you can make things happen. "There is also a lot of personal satisfaction in taking part in shaping the future or destiny of a company," he says.

Santiago is president and general manager of Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc. He joined the food firm as sales director in 1999, served as president of Kraft Foods (Indonesia) from June 2001 to September 2002 and took over as head of the local subsidiary in October of the same year.

Increasingly, Santiago observes, foreign companies have been seeking out Filipinos for key positions in their businesses. Surely, this is a sign that the Filipino has proved his value in the global workplace.

Varied exposure

The 42-year-old CEO, incidentally, has had a varied career, which began with his first job as a management trainee of Unilever Philippines. "I applied as a technical management trainee. I ended up with HR, where I spent four years," he says. Later on, he became production manager, then sales manager. He feels working with Unilever straight out of college was his first real break.

Santiago stayed with Unilever for 11 years, then signed up with Avon Cosmetics as sales and operations manager and lasted another 12, after which he moved to Uniwide Holdings as vice president for marketing and merchandising. Three years later, he transferred to Kraft Foods.

His work experience in various industries, affirms Santiago, and his exposure to the different aspects of business, have given him a broader perspective and a solid base on which to build a meaningful and lasting career.

Mentors

Success in any career, according to Santiago, is usually made up of hard work, good breaks and luck. "Bosses play a key role. I've been fortunate because I've had bosses who believed in me. They served as role models for me. They were my mentors."

Among them was Bernie Jambalos, then head of HR at Unilever and Santiago's first boss. Says he, "He taught me a lot about dealing with different kinds of people or people skills." From Marie Franco of Avon Cosmetics, Santiago learned how to be sensitive to people and how to motivate and lead them.

Of course, there is his present boss, Pet Bautista, vice president and area director for Kraft Foods Southeast Asia, which is based locally. Bautista is also chair of the board of Kraft Foods (Philippines). Says Santiago, "He has been a good mentor. He has provided me with invaluable insights on sales and marketing, and on general management."

Another vital influence in Santiago's life is his mother, a public school teacher for 35 years, who reared him with discipline and showed him the importance of an education. He finished elementary and high school, by the way, at Don Bosco and has a degree in chemical engineering from De La Salle University.

Team challenge

Right now, Santiago feels his biggest challenge as a CEO, is to encourage Kraft employees to work together as one. "I would like to mold them into a single group and to develop a new Kraft team. Together, we will lead the company towards defining its own culture and we will continue working together as a team in order to realize its objectives."

Kraft Foods (Philippines), incidentally, is the largest in Southeast Asia. Kraft, which we usually associate with cheese and easily one of the major food manufacturers worldwide, has been here for 40 years.

As sales director, Santiago established the company's sales division. "I was the first and only employee in the division at the time," he says. Today, there are 90. The secret, according to Santiago, is teamwork.

SANTIAGO, president and general manager of Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc. PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Teamwork is not possible without a good leader and a good leader is people-oriented. People skills, contends Santiago, are essential in effective management. He is admittedly a people person. He points out, "I thrive best in situations where I interact and work with people," Working with HR early in his career made him realize the value of human relations within the workplace and outside of it.

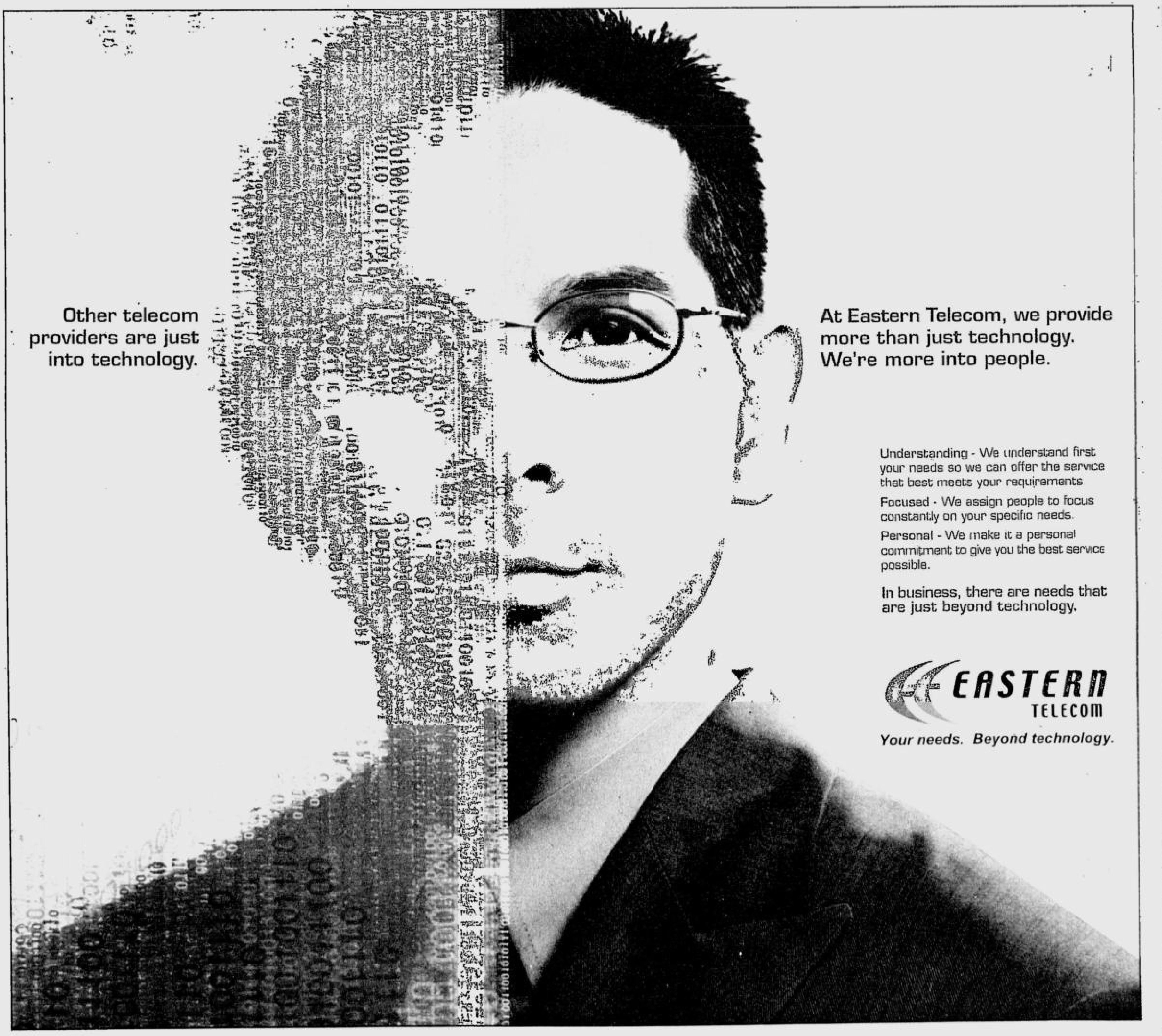
Results orientation

"Bias for action is also an important component of leadership," says the CEO. "I consider myself an action man." Overall, he adds, he makes a good boss-one who's supportive of his staff, democratic and never dictatorial. He is also results-oriented.

Self-motivated and consistent, Santiago finds fulfillment in being able to make a difference not only in the company but in the lives of its employees as well. He notes, "I value the work they do and their effort." As much as possible, he tries to keep track of their growth and progress in the company.

To encourage its more promis-

CEO crafted/ B0



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Software piracy rate dips

LONDON—Corporations cracked down on pirated software last year, trimming the glut by a percentage point, an industry report said on Tuesday.

The rare bit of good news comes at a tough time for software and media conglomerates. They are battling to stem the black market trade of cut-rate or free software, music and movie copies available online and on the street.

Industry lobby group Business Software Alliance (BSA) said the worldwide software piracy rate fell last year to 39 percent from 40 percent.

"We're pleased with the results, but we're still facing a piracy situation where nearly four in ten pieces of business software is used without authorization," said Beth Scott, BSA vice president of Europe, Middle East and Africa.

The BSA has spent huge sums to try to reduce the installation of unlicensed software duplicates in areas such as word processing and spreadsheet programs to avoid paying the license fees.

The modest improvement brings to an end two straight years of piracy escalation. The industry had blamed the burgeoning traffic in copyright-protected materials on Internet file-sharing networks and on so-called "warez" trading sites.

The 2002 figure is 10 percentage points below the 1994 level, the point at which the industry first confronted the problem in a united front.

The group warned its fight was not over as it estimated piracy cost the industry $13 billion in lost sales, $2 billion more than in 2001.

The group added that weakness in the dollar contributed greatly to the inflated monetary value, and thus, it chose to single out volume of unlicensed software as the clearest indication for piracy. *Reuters*

Oil at 6-week highs, cut in Opec production seen

SINGAPORE—Oil prices held at six-week highs on Tuesday, as traders pondered whether the OPEC producers' cartel would trim supplies when it meets next week at a time when US fuel stocks are low heading into peak summer demand.

US July light crude rose as high as $30.86 a barrel, the highest since April 21.

London's Brent crude was up 17 cents at $27.55 a barrel.

Traders are concerned gasoline inventories in the United States, where demand for motor fuel accounts for 12 percent of global oil consumption, will be insufficient to meet demand in the summer vacation season when road travel hits a peak.

Recent government data showed US gasoline stocks as of May 23 running at a 13 percent deficit to a year ago, while crude inventories were nearly 40 percent below levels last year.

At the same time, Iraqi crude exports have yet to return to the world market despite the end of the war in April. Baghdad exported roughly 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude before the US-led invasion in March.

But Opec suppliers are considering possible production cuts at the June 11 meeting in Doha in preparation for a resumption in Iraqi oil flows.

Venezuela said last week the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries may reduce official output limits of 25.4 million bpd by one million bpd, but the decision hinged on the extent and speed of recovery of Iraq's oil industry.

Iraqi officials are targeting output of 1.5 million bpd by mid-June, roughly half of the country's pre-war production.

Exports should account for about 50 percent of output. *Reuters*

COMING...
vibrant
modern

A CLEANER pushes his trolley in front of a poster of an upcoming shopping center to be developed in Singapore, June 3. Stocks surged, airlines reinstated flights and shoppers hit the malls as Singapore enjoyed its first day of business after being taken off the World Health Organization's blacklist of SARS-affected countries. AFP

EU finance ministers meet amid signs of recession

LUXEMBOURG—Inflation dropped to 1.9 percent in May in the 12 nations that share the euro as their currency—only the second time in three years it has come under the European Central Bank's 2 percent target, according to preliminary data released by the European Union on Monday.

Eurostat, the EU statistics agency, said its data suggested a continued downward trend in prices over the last two months. In March, inflation stood at 2.4 percent.

May's drop should leave more room for the Frankfurt-based ECB to cut rates at its weekly meeting Thursday, a move widely expected.

On Monday, the EU finance ministers began a two-day meeting amid signs of a recession fueled by a strong euro. The currency traded just below $1.17 on Monday, down from $1.19 last week but still up 13 percent since the start of the year.

Last month, the European Commission insisted fiscal discipline will help reinvigorate Europe's faltering economies yet it said the EU faced "the most difficult period of budgetary policies" since the launch of the euro in 1999.

The finance ministers were expected to warn Paris it faces fines unless it brings its deficit under 3 percent of gross domestic product by next year.

France and Germany are unlikely to balance their budgets by 2006, as required under EU rules.

"France must make some more effort," said EU spokesperson Gerassimos Thomas. Though it has embarked on pension reforms, Paris has resisted delaying tax cuts or slashing spending.

Also on the ministers' plate is the decade-long quest for an EU-wide savings tax. *AP*

US lawmakers to fight new rules on media ownership

WASHINGTON—Several US lawmakers vowed late Monday to block a decision by federal regulators easing media ownership restrictions, warning the changes will concentrate media concerns in the hands of a few powerful corporations.

Democratic Senator Byron Dorgan called the media ownership changes approved by the Federal Communications Commission "dumb and dangerous."

"This decision advances big corporate interests, and does so at the expense of the public interest. It is a decision that chooses concentration over competition."

Dorgan was joined at a news conference by senators Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, senior Democrat on the Commerce Committee, and Republican Trent Lott of Mississippi, who called Monday's FCC vote "a mistake." Dorgan said Congress could stop the changes from taking effect by invoking a "resolution of disapproval" that would, in effect, give lawmakers a veto, or simply fail to appropriate funds to implement the new rules.

"Broadcasters have an obligation to serve the public interest," Dorgan said.

"Concentrating ownership of stations that broadcast over those airwaves into fewer and fewer hands advances neither the cause localism nor diversity."

Senator John McCain, chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, announced he would convene a committee meeting with the five FCC commissioners on Wednesday to discuss the media ownership rules.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority leader Tom Daschle called the changes "disappointing.

"I'm worried that the new rules will lead to a growing concentration of control over our news and information to the detriment of our democracy," the South Dakota Democrat said. *AFP*

Global mobile phone sales up

TOKYO—Global sales of mobile phone handsets jumped 18 percent in the January-March quarter from a year earlier on robust replacement demand, according to a survey released Tuesday.

Some 112.7 million handsets were sold in the quarter, with Finland's Nokia leading the field with a 35 percent global market share on 39.5 million handset sales, according to Gartner Japan Ltd. unit of US technology information firm Gartner Group.

Nokia sold 32.6 million handsets in the same period last year.

The replacement demand is expected to grow further in 2003 as manufacturers are scheduled to launch camera phones with a variety of functions in mature markets, such as Europe, Gartner said.

"In all regions, sales are increasing so much that, through 2003, we expect to see double digit growth from the previous year," the company said.

Nokia was followed by US-based Motorola, which sold 16.6 million handsets, equivalent to a 14.7 percent market share, compared with 16.8 million units a year ago.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics took the third largest market share with 10.5 percent or 11.9 million handsets, up from 8.9 million units sold a year ago.

German technology firm Siemens sold 8.6 million handsets to keep a 7.6 percent share of the market, up from 8.1 million units sold a year ago.

Sony Ericsson, joint venture of Japanese Sony and Swedish Ericsson, sold 5.4 million handsets or 4.8 percent of the global share, down from 6 million units. *AFP*

JAPAN'S mobile communication giant NTT DoCoMo employee Mayumi Sasaki displays a new 1.3 mega-pixel camera mobile phone "SO505i," produced by Sony Ericsson, in Tokyo June 2. The world's first 1.3 mega-pixel CCD camera mobile phone will go on sale June 4, with an estimated price of 30,000 yen ($252). AFP

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IMPROVING INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

Japanese businessmen upbeat on RP

JAPANESE businessmen have expressed satisfaction over the efforts extended by various government agencies to improve the business climate in the country by addressing key investment issues.

Ryukichi Kawaguchi, president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc. in his letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo said they were "seeing positive developments" aimed at solving the issues that were raised last December shortly before the president went on a state visit to Japan.

"We are very grateful to Your Excellency for making sure that these concerns were addressed properly and promptly by the concerned authorities," Kawaguchi said in the letter.

Among the issues raised by the Japanese businessmen were the needed improvements in infrastructure, labor, and peace and order in the country.

"On the improvements of roads and junctions around economic zones, we understand that the Department of Trade and Industry and its Board of Investments are actively seeking the participation of DPWH, PNCC and concerned LGUs in continuous discussions," Kawaguchi said.

The Japanese chamber earlier raised the need to improve the flow of traffic in Laguna, Cavite and Batangas provinces where export-oriented manufacturing industries are located. They also pressed for the early completion of the rehabilitation and reinforcement of the Alabang fly-over along South Luzon Expressway and the extension of South Luzon Expressway from Calamba, Laguna to Sto. Tomas Batangas and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) for the Lipa Batangas segment.

"It is our understanding that a proposal for a feasibility study under a Japanese ODA funding is underway," Kawaguchi said of the group's proposal to develop a new road system connecting the economic zones of Laguna and Cavite.

The Japanese chamber earlier expressed concern over the activities of radical labor groups. "Our chamber is now actively engaged in discussions with the DTI/BOI as a number of companies are contacting the QRT (Quick Reaction Team) for advice and suggestions. They are also geared towards participating in seminars organized by DTI's Center for Industrial Competitiveness for the purpose of enhancing industrial peace," Kawaguchi added.

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas earlier spearheaded the formation of Quick Reaction Teams, composed of representatives from various government agencies to handle potential labor disputes and minimize the possibility of strikes.

In addition, they expressed serious concern over the increasing incidence of hijacking and pilferage of truck cargoes of exporters based in Calabarzon. In response to these, Roxas initiated a top-level meeting to solve the problem.

"In February this year, a high-level meeting chaired by Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. of the interior and local government was held at the DTI to discuss ways to address the problem. Subsequent meetings thereafter have been organized by the Philippine National Police. Standard operating procedures, aimed at reinforcing security measures, are now put in place by the PNP, particularly in Region 4. We understand that there is even a plan to set up an anti-hijacking center," Kawaguchi said.

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JG Summit shutting down subsidiary

By Elena R. Torrijos

JG Summit Holdings Inc., the holding company of the Gokongwei family, has decided to shut down losing subsidiary Cambridge Electronics Corp., maker of printed circuit boards.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, JG Summit said the board of CEC authorized the cessation of its plant operations effective July 11 this year.

"We decided to just cut our losses and shut it down. It's a fairly small business for us," JG Summit director for corporate planning B.J. Sebastian said.

Sebastian said JG Summit would have to incur a one-time expense because of the closure of the PCB manufacturer but said this would be offset by proceeds from the sale of the unit's assets.

"We're still trying to determine the impact (of the closure) in terms of any one-time charge. It will be included in our second quarter result."

CEC, which has been exporting PCBs to the United States and Europe, had suffered from the global electronics downturn in the past two years.

JG Summit earlier reported that its profit in the first quarter of the year jumped to P920.83 million from P590 million in the same period last year on the back of higher revenue and other income.

In 2002, the company's net income rose only slightly to P2.357 billion from P2.309 billion the year before.

Meralco agrees to renegotiate IPP contracts

By Michelle V. Remo

MANILA Electric Co. has pledged to renegotiate its contracts with its three independent power producers to lower electricity cost.

In a meeting with Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri yesterday, Meralco officials, headed by board director Christian Monsod, told the country's economic chief that Meralco was now prepared to renegotiate its contracts with First Gas Power Corp., Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. and Duracom East Asia Power to reduce its purchased power adjustment cost.

"Meralco said it was ready to renegotiate its contract with its IPPs, now that it has proper information and documentation to study the contracts," said Neri.

According to Neri, Meralco's move would directly address the problem on high electricity cost, which is one of the factors that turn off investors from making business in the country.

"My concern is to sustain positive investor sentiment by trying to ensure that power cost will become more manageable and at par with regional power rates," said Neri in a briefing.

He said the problem on high electricity cost had been raised as a major concern of the private sector.

He noted that compared with Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia—where a monthly electricity consumption of 500,000 kWh by the business sector costs only $25,000 to $35,000—the cost of the same electricity consumption in the Philippines reaches $50,000.

According to Neri, the renegotiation of the IPP contracts is hoped to generate a huge amount of savings for the electric consumers, in the same way that the Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management made possible the savings of about P700 million from the renegotiation of its IPP contracts.

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Part 1

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HEAD over feet in love. Alanis Morissette and Ryan Reynolds

ONE time at bandcamp... Alyson Hannigan minus the flute.

HOW not to lose a guy in 10 days. Kate Hudson holds on to Luke Wilson.

PINK—more muscular than ever.

KELLY Osbourne goes blonde.

NO webcam in sight for "American Pie's" Shannon Elizabeth

WHERE'S JOSIE? Pussycat Tara Reid goes solo.

Yoda and Gollum steal the scene at the MTV Movie Awards 2003

It was an awards show with a lot of expletives, slapstick and sleaze—vintage MTV as always

Text and photos by Tim Yap

LOS ANGELES, California—It was the night the MTV generation took time off to poke fun at and pay tribute to Hollywood at the same time.

Through spoof after spoof, the 12th MTV Movie Awards turned into a night of virtual antics and manic mayhem, courtesy of the stars, the celebrities and the people who loved them.

Outside the Shrine Auditorium was the giant golden popcorn, the icon that has symbolized the awards for years. A stage area was set up outside for fans to cheer on their favorite celebrities as they walked the red carpet. I felt like marching down the red carpet in my printed floral and striped green and white Rajo Laurel suit.

Yaparazzi was at the scene of the crime, with MTV Philippines' Charley Bautista, who marched the red route with Rosamund Pike (the snow queen in "Die Another Day"), Nenita Chu (representing Globe Gentxt, which is sponsoring the Philippine premiere) and Mike Lao.

Making waves as they strode toward the venue were May-December couple Harrison Ford (with an earring) and Calista Flockhart; Brit superstars David and Victoria "Posh" Beckham, who were in coordinated white; the flashy Hilton sisters Nikki and Paris; dandy dudes P. Diddy and Ashton Kutcher, to name drop a few.

MARK Wahlberg without George Clooney

ASHTON Kutcher's cropped 'do takes a bit of getting used to.

Shabby chic

Majority of the stars were in dressed-down duds, from Colin Farrel to Hugh Jackman, who came in shirt-and-jeans combo, to Jennifer Garner, who wore a pastel tank with a pleated mini. Both Adrien Brody and Kirsten Dunst looked like they had just woken up, while teen stars Amanda Bynes and Daveigh Chase (Samara in "The Ring") looked like they had a caffeine overdose.

Some opted for glam, like Beyonce Knowles, who wore an olive ribbon laced corset dress, while others, like Nikki Hilton, preferred the sexy-star flash, to the delight of photographers present.

Hosting the event were the dynamic duo of pop superstar Justin Timberlake and actor Seann William Scott, more popularly known as Stiffler in the "American Pie" series. The two transformed into animated superheroes at the start of the evening, playing out a story line that was threaded all throughout the show.

They looked like modern jock versions of Jesus and Judas as they traded punchlines and hopped from one movie scene to another.

The stage looked like a postmodern superhero set straight out of a comic book.

A film spoof of "Matrix Reloaded" opened the night, featuring Justin and Seann with some hot babes, the hallway of doors and a special cameo of "the Keymaker,". played by Randall Kim. Then off they hopped to Zion where they saw Morpheus and joined the rave.

THE HOBBITS take home a different precious. Sean Astin and Elijah Wood

Other surprise appearances were made by Ferrell, Andy Dick and Wanda Sykes. The futuristic spoof set the tone for an awards show filled with hysterics and tons of virtual fun!

Also spoofed was "Charlie's Angels 2," which featured Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu, Vince Vaughn and director McG. It showed "behind-the-scenes" action from the girls. Whew! The things people do for promo. Then again, no one's complaining.

As this was MTV, music stars had their share of the limelight. Pink had the audience dancing to her new tune, "Feel Good Time," a single from the "Charlie's Angels 2" soundtrack, complete with motorbikes and female breakdancers.

From bike chick to sharpshooter, 50 Cent rocked the house as he performed a medley of his hits, "In da Club" and "Wangster."

And delirious duo T.A.T.U. closed the show with their signature Russian shock tactics, with 175 dancers and school girls, who later stripped down to tank tops and briefs—so much for female empowerment.

Most memorable

The most memorable moment came not from the humans, but from the virtual characters! Gollum, our favorite character from "Lord of the Rings," went mad as he accepted his award and thanked everyone. "My preciousssss....," he said, as he relished the popcorn trophy while rolling his eyes.

In contrast, Yoda was his calm self, as he made a grand entrance, flying onstage to got the Best Fight award with Christopher Lee. "Grateful am I for this award received," as he went on and on to thank everyone from George Lucas to Natalie Portman, then he ended his speech with "Long live your queen... Latifah."

When Eminem appeared onscreen to accept the Breakthrough Performance by an Actor award for his role in "8 Mile," the rap star said, poker-faced, "I can't believe I beat Mariah (Carey) for 'Glitter'!" Best Villain award went to Daveigh Chase, who played Samara in "The Ring," who was all of a sudden so chirpy and bright she reminded me of Lea Salonga during her "Annie" phase. Even when she put on her "Tamara" mode and hammed her "Everyone will suffer" line, it just wasn't there anymore.

"To the future!" Seann William Scott ended the show as Justin Timberlake was having fun riding his people mover, a machine that resembled a circus unicycle.

This, and more slapstick, sexy and censored stuff happened at the MTV Movie Awards, including this writer's adventures and misadventures, but since this section is for general patronage, I shall reserve the expletives for another outing. In the meantime, below is a list of the winners.

The MTV Movie Awards 2003 is sponsored by Globe Gentxt. It will air on MTV on June 14 at 2 p.m. and June 15 at 9 p.m.

MIKE Myers cannot resist doing an Austin Powers.

NICKELODEON cutie Amanda Bynes knows what she wants.

AS HOT as warm pie—Jason Biggs

CRAZILY beautiful, Kirsten Dunst

POPDOM'S "it" boy Justin Timberlake

THE WINNERS

BEST MOVIE "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"
BEST MALE PERFORMANCE Eminem ("8 Mile")
BEST FEMALE PERFORMANCE Kirsten Dunst ("Spiderman")
BEST ONSCREEN TEAM Elijah Wood, Sean Astin and Gollum, ("Lord of the Rings")
BEST COMEDIC PERFORMANCE Mike Myers ("Austin Powers in Goldmember")
BEST VILLAIN Daveigh Chase ("The Ring")
BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE MALE Eminem ("8 Mile")
BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE-FEMALE Jennifer Garner ("Daredevil")
BEST KISS Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst ("Spiderman")
BEST ACTION SEQUENCE "Lord of the Rings"
BEST FIGHT Yoda vs Christopher Lee ("Star Wars Episode 2-Attack of the Clones")
BEST VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE Gollum ("Lord of the Rings")
TRANS ATLANTIC BREAKTHROUGH AWARD Colin Farrell

Beauty products inspired by the sea

Lora Gabol

I FIND myself oddly melancholic when I witness the first trickle of rain falling, signaling the end of another warm, sunshine-filled summer. I'd like to think it has nothing to do with the sudden drop in temperature (I enjoy snuggling up to bulky comforters in the cold morning air), and everything to do with how rainy days seem to put a big sign that reads "Blah!" on the mirror in place of your reflection. Cloudy skies, thunderstorms and sub-zero temps dull your looks like no other—your glorious tan begins to fade, your dewy skin turns into Sahara, your textured hair goes limp. We all know how sun, sand and surf turn into our best beauty allies when the heat is up. There is something aesthetically therapeutic about being near the ocean, and, thank heavens for French vanity, now you can take the beautifying properties of the sea into your own home, with or without the sun (and a ticket!).

Released locally just recently, Phytomer incorporates the spirit of the sea into an intensive line of products for your entire body. Bringing the riches of the sea within reach is Phytomer's philosophy. Every bottle, every tube in their beauty line is infused with vitamins and minerals from the very source of life: the ocean.

From basic skincare to more advanced spa treatments, Phytomer has every inch of your body covered. Here are some of my favorites.

Phytomer Seaweed Soap

I've always been a big fan of shower gels and scrubs, but this great-smelling (it's practically aromatherapy!) block of rich ingredients and exfoliating cleansing particles is one winner. Grainy enough to smooth your roughest, toughest body parts, but never scratches your skin raw. It is also one of those products you get real value for your money as one bar lasts you forever (or two months). This circulation-boosting soap is part of Phytomer's Cleansing/Exfoliation treatment line that also includes the Exfoliating Shower Gel and Exfoliating Body Grommage (scrub) Cream.

Tip: Boost your circulation and let your skin glow by using a body brush all over your dry bod (using strokes directed toward the heart) before you hit the shower or the tub. This starts exfoliation as well.

Phytomer Comedogel

Oily complexioned girls, rejoice! Clogged pores and excess sebum, beware! It's a black/whitehead extraction facial made handy, minus the torturous pricking and squeezing! This skin treatment works two ways to improve your overall complexion. Primarily, it deep cleans already plugged pores with natural, non-irritating marine ingredients. In addition, it prevents dirt and oil from even beginning to settle in your pores. Voila! Skin is free to breathe once again. Part of the Purifying line, Comedogel is best used with the Purifying Cleansing Gel, Facial Mask and Emulsion. For more stubborn spots, you can apply either Acnigel or Corrigel on affected areas.

Tip: On minor zits and bumps, apply a small amount of Comedogel at bedtime and watch 'em disappear!

Phytomer Soothing Hand Cream

I chanced upon a beauty quiz in one of those foreign magazines. One question asked, "What is the body part you most neglect?" It was only then that I gave it some thought, and I shamefully put a circle around "b. my hands." It's true. The only beauty regimen I've ever subjected my manos to is the dollop of hand sanitizer I rub on before meals. Until I was introduced to Phytomer's Soothing Hand Cream, that is. Non-greasy and very velvety, they weren't kidding when they prefixed the product's name with "soothing." I lug the tube around everywhere I go, and use a little when my hands feel chapped (especially on chilly days) or when I sense a session of HH-WW (holding hands while walking, hee-hee) coming.

Why end with your hands, right? The rest of your body deserves the same luxurious care with the Moisturizing Body Beauty Line that takes care of every nook and cranny from your neck down.

Tip: In the mood for more princess pampering? Put on a little of the hand cream on your feet (forget greasy petroleum jelly) before you hit the sack, wear a pair of cotton socks, and wake up with the smoothest tootsies ever.

Phytomer Instant Self-Tanning Spray (face and body)

Who can schedule beach weekends when Chedeng, Dodong and their equally killjoy relatives reign supreme this time of year? With zero time for baking under the sun, it's goodbye to that golden glow and hello to a pasty pallor. Or at least it used to be until self-tanners hit our shores! This one by Phytomer is definitely one of the best, and undoubtedly the most convenient. The spray formula can be used on both face and body, which is a great bonus for those who hate having to apply (not to mention, splurge on) another product on another body part. I love that you don't run any risk of turning orange—it's golden bronze all the way! Don't get all excited and skip the exfoliation part, though. Your seaweed soap or body scrub will do a good job on that. And just because it's cloudy doesn't mean we can scrimp on sunscreen. Choose the perfect SPF buddy from Phytomer's Sun Care Range, all equipped with Helioprotect.

Tip: Feeling a bit "chubby" after those *longga-pandesal* pigouts? Use a self-tanner for the illusion of a slimmer, sleeker, hotter you.

This line doesn't even begin to define the beauty magic Phytomer can do. Visit its counter at Rustan's Makati and see for yourself.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

'How can I convince my mom to let me stay in a dorm?'

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

Hey, guys! I've got a bee in my bonnet and I need your opinion regarding my problem.

You see, I really want to go to this school, but the thing is, it's too far from home and would require me to board. What's worse is that my mom won't let me. She thinks I won't be able to handle life all by myself. I am the youngest and was quite sickly while I was growing up. But I'm not anymore, and can boastfully say that I can handle myself pretty well now. She has taught me well and shouldn't feel unsure about me.

I've spent all of my school years in a Catholic school, and I have my values straight. Time will come when I will have to spread my wings. I want to be prepared when that time comes, and for me, nothing can prepare me more than being away for college.

Am I right or am I just clueless? My course will eventually lead me to a career abroad. If she feels I won't be able to survive life being only a city away, then how the heck would she expect me to survive when I'm a continent away? I want to practice my independence, and having her near makes it impossible for me to do so. How can I convince her to let me go?

CP

The bottom line of all parental responsibilities is to prepare their children to live lives of their own. That is why they teach us good manners, send us to good schools, and occasionally talk our ears away about the things we should and should not do.

I'm sure your mother also wants the same thing for you, except that she has become too focused on some events in your life where your strength and maturity didn't exactly shine through.

I believe it's more than your delicate health as a child that is pushing her to mollycoddle you, or the fact that you're the baby in your family.

Could you have done something that caused her to distrust your capabilities? I hear you in saying that you've got your values straight, but have you proven that to your mother? Parents don't necessarily share or under stand the same sense of self that their kids have, so it might take you more than promises to convince your mom that you're ready to live on your own.

It would also be good to voice out all your concerns about her lack of trust. Tell her how her constant presence or interference makes it hard for you to experience the freedom that you want.

Ask her bluntly why she thinks you're incapable to live in a dorm, and don't stop at answers like how sickly you were as a child, that you're the youngest, etc. In short, hold a bull session. Not only can you find reasons for your mother's behavior, but you can also let your non-juvenile thinking shine through.

A word of caution, though: Try to think what kind of reactions or ways of speaking your mother considers rude and childish, and remember not to use them with her. As blinded by overprotection as she is, she's still an adult who can point out when a kid's words are not mirrored in his actions.

SEP

I know you have your heart and mind set on a particular school already, but considering how immensely powerful mothers are, I think you should try popping your bubble and seriously consider nearer schools, which could turn out to be as good as (or even better than) your chosen school.

Putting something on a pedestal brings forth truckloads of biases, which can hinder you from realizing the commendable and applause-inducing qualities of other options.

Our dear mothers are creatures of extreme concern. Even if they come off as intrusive sometimes, I hope we always realize how they are simply looking out for their beloved children.

You may be pretty old by now despite being the youngest, and you may no longer get sick on a monthly basis, but your mother, who's been with you since day one (and who's probably paying for your tuition fees), still considers you incapable of certain things.

Mothers always have a say, and they have a basis for their choices and actions. As their children, we have the obligation to at least hear them out.

Also, always remember that your mother, just like any mother, simply wants to be with her children as much as possible.

Don't surrender to impulse and delude yourself into wanting to go to your school of choice, especially if you know you have a zero percent chance of being permitted to board or you'll die commuting every day. With everything, it is always wise to have plans B to Z.

The career abroad does entail a huge amount of independence. You have a point when you ask how you can be ready for that when your dear mother can't allow you to practice your independence through boarding. I think your mother thinks you're simply not prepared to go live alone yet, basing on your actions and behavior at home.

So go and prove her wrong. If you successfully do so, maybe you'd be out of the house in time for second sem.

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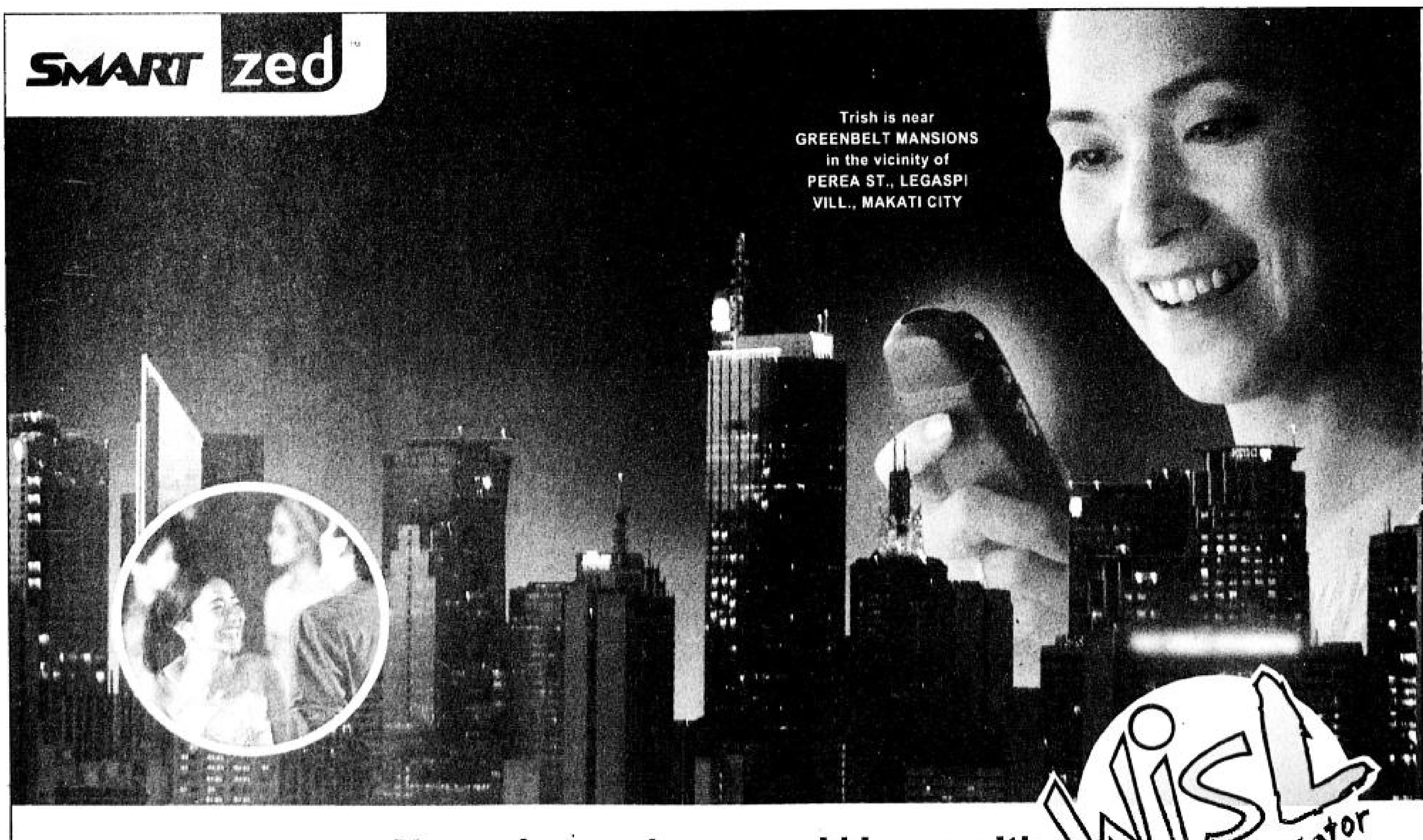

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When pretty girls play tough

A girls' high school basketball team finds out that the drudgery of practice is worth every sweat

By Emmanuel V. Papa
2bU! Contributor

THE POVEDA High School Basketball team opens the new academic year shooting hoops left and right. It has been training since May 5 for the 2003 Milo Best Center-sponsored Women's Basketball League.

The team is exerting more effort as it will participate in the league's competitive level, a much tougher tournament than last year's developmental level where the team won the championship.

Coached by Edwin Barber, with rookie coaches Julio Veloso and this writer, last year's team was led by then seniors Cathy Romualdo (team captain and league MVP), Bianca Anonas, Rosella Lopez, Cheska Respicio, and starting guard Egg-Egg Monzon. Completing last year's roster were Andrea Tan, defense specialists Bianca Nable and Katherine Diaz, Gela Encanto, Kaye Enriquez, Karen Cunanan, Stephanie Poon, Samantha Lee, and the sharp-shooting tandem of Amy Rose Austria and Claudine Olalia.

During the summer training last year, the team trained for two and a half hours a day, three times a week. Every jog, run, dribble, pass and shot seemed a drudging routine of boo-boos and jerky movements. The drills seemed like musical notes played by a disorganized ensemble.

The team was never complete during the training. Nevertheless, the ones who attended practice were dedicated and committed. Even the aspirants (three sophomores and two freshmen) practiced religiously. So it was hard to pare down the applicants to three and let go of the two.

When classes opened, training continued, but it was decreased to two hours per day, thrice a week. We focused on endurance building and more complex plays.

THE POVEDA high school basketball team

A lone offensive play was diagramed by coach Edwin. With a lot of movements and different point-producing options, this served as the bread-and-butter play of the team for sometime. It was quickly applied to the team's scrimmages, together with two baseline and sideline plays.

But two players had to stop training. It was a big blow to the team. But it allowed us to accommodate the other two players trying out for the team.

Lack of bonding

The only thing that bothered us was that the team lacked bonding. They were still divided. They talked to each other, laughed, cracked jokes. Still, they grouped themselves according to their batch. They were teammates all right, but still, not a team.

Two weeks into our first WBL game, the coaches realized that the play needed to be broken down. For five training days, the team practiced and adjusted to the modified set of plays, and fortunately, they easily got the feel of it.

We lost our first game. The team was lousy. It was as if the players were contented with just playing. We had been practicing since summer, we had made the plays easier, and the team had three coaches at the helm.

Still, we lost.

We just consoled ourselves, calling it just a case of first-game jitters.

In our second game, however, we beat a formidable UP IS squad. At last, our team got to display what we had been practicing for in months. Gela Encanto practically stole almost every ball possession, setting up a running game for the team. Egg-Egg Monzon directed the plays with ease, while Rosella Lopez provided some clutch baskets. Everyone played like a well-oiled machine. Nobody got stuck in neutral.

We went on to win the next three games and to clinch a spot in the final four, against a very dangerous Saint Theresa's College.

The team displayed brilliance. With nerve-racking defense, the Povedans conquered the opponent with an 11-point victory, earning the right to face Saint Anthony in the championship match-up.

Tussle

The championship tussle was full of turnovers from both teams. The Poveda crowd, specially the parents of the players, cheered endlessly.

There was excitement and nervousness. Even Heather Europa and Denise Madlansacay, the players who needed to take a leave from the team, prayed heavily.

In the end, cliché as it may sound, the team that wanted the game more prevailed.

Claudine Olalia and Bianca Anonas made some very timely baskets. The team ignored the pressure. The members trusted each other. One good defensive stop led to another as rookie center Sam Lee made a driving lay-up in the dying seconds to seal the win for the Povedans.

The season was more than just a quest for winning the championship. It was a journey to self-development and to sharing as a team. The members did not think of personal glory; they played for something greater—for their parents, school, and, above all, for God.

As the school year begins, a new team awaits the new season. Retaining the crown will be difficult. But because of their hard work, commitment, faith and skills, these wonderful student-athletes are champions already.

New artist launches album in Pandacan

NEW alternative artist Lei Garcia launched her debut album "Bangon Na" in the depressed barangay of Dapo in Pandacan.

She was joined by Gary Granada, Jess Bartolome, and The Brew, among others. Sining Bugkos, Concerned Artists of the Philippines, Artists for Peace and other cultural groups also took part in the launching. Marili Fernandez Ilagan directed the launching while Boni Ilagan wrote the script

Garcia explained she chose Dapo for be her album launch as "an affirmation of solidarity with the struggles of the poor people."

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   hal. "reg Johnny Reyes 1902 New York St., Cubao" at i-text sa 2292.
2. Mag-Celle-babad. Tumawag (₱6.50 /min. cell to cell and cell to local landline, ₱9.50 /min. NDD, $0.40 /min. IDD), Mag-Voice Message (₱3.00 /min.), Voice Info (₱3.00 /min.) at Karaoke (₱2.50 /min.). Every 1 minute on your TouchMobile is equivalent to 1 electronic raffle entry.
   Kaya: 2 min. calls = 2 electronic raffle entries; 3 min. calls = 3 electronic raffle entries.
3. Touch Mobile Celle-babad Raffle Promo is from April 21 to June 15, 2003

The more you Celle-babad on your Touch Mobile, baka ang dream house mo, mapasa-iyo!

See flyers for more details.

*Only charged voice calls will be valid for this promo. All calls to 801, 802, 808 and other toll free numbers are not qualified as entries.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0873. Series of 2003.

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STA. CATALINA VILLAGE

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LIFEST

2bU!

WHO says old clothes cannot be fashionable? The author's younger brother Hans models his hand-me-downs.

Hand-me-down *stylish* clothes

Text and photos by Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

YOU just graduated from high school and you're lost about what clothes to buy. Actually the harder part is if you'll be able

HAND-ME-DOWN/ D3

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[illegible]

ROBINSONS Galleria

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TOP ODYSSEY RINGTONES	KEYWORDS
Half Life - Duncan Sheik	G17
The Remedy - Jason Mraz	G18
17 - Mandy Moore	G19
Shape - Sugababes	G20
The One - Jennifer Lopez	G21
American Life - Madonna	G22
Hurt U So Bad - Crazy Town	G26
Foolish Heart - Nina	G27
Session - Linkin Park	G28
Iba Talaga – Nestlé Theme	G15
Nestlé Carito - Ice Cream Cart Theme	G16

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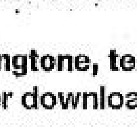
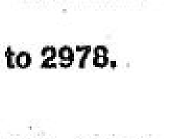
Check out these chart-topping albums at Odyssey outlets!

Artist: JENNIFER LOPEZ
Album: This is me then...


Artist: MADONNA
Album: American Life

Artist: NIVEA
Album : Nivea


Artist: CRAZY TOWN
Album: Darkhorse

Artist: 50 CENT
Album: Get Rich or Die Tryin

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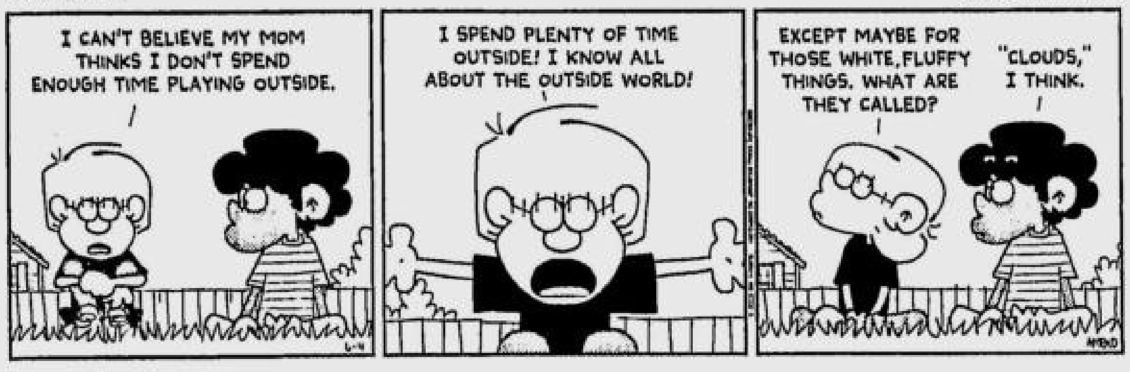
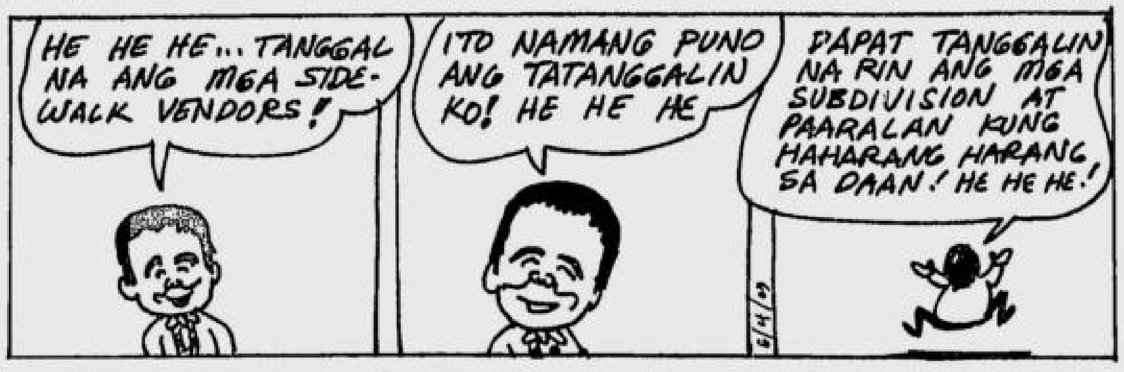
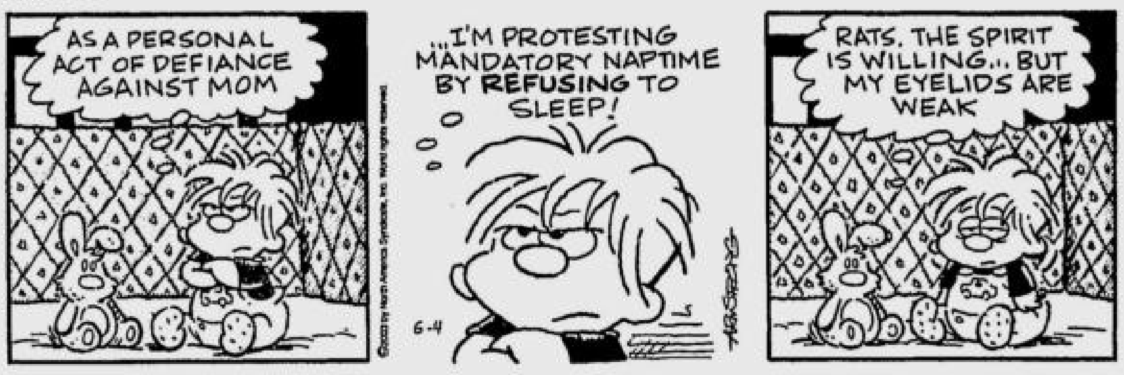
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I CAN'T BELIEVE MY MOM THINKS I DON'T SPEND ENOUGH TIME PLAYING OUTSIDE.
I SPEND PLENTY OF TIME OUTSIDE! I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
EXCEPT MAYBE FOR THOSE WHITE, FLUFFY THINGS. WHAT ARE THEY CALLED?
"CLOUDS," I THINK.

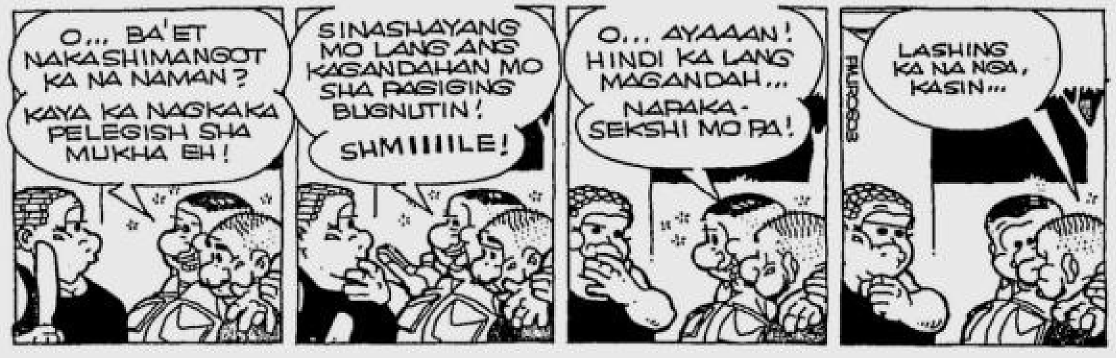
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HE HE HE... TANGGAL NA ANG MGA SIDE-WALK VENDORS!
ITO NAMANG PUNO ANG TATANGGALIN KO! HE HE HE
DAPAT TANGGALIN NA RIN ANG MGA SUBDIVISION AT PAARALAN KUNG HAHARANG HARANG SA DAAN! HE HE HE!
6/4/03

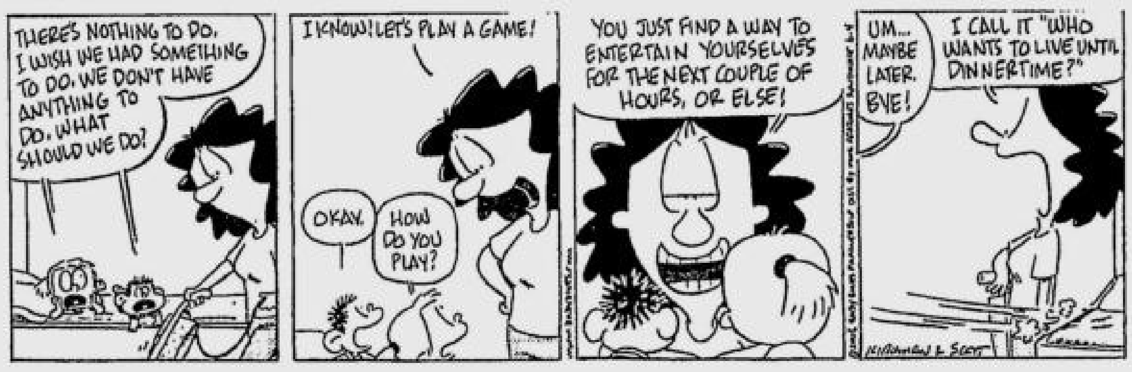
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AS A PERSONAL ACT OF DEFIANCE AGAINST MOM
...I'M PROTESTING MANDATORY NAPTIME BY REFUSING TO SLEEP!
RATS. THE SPIRIT IS WILLING... BUT MY EYELIDS ARE WEAK
6-4

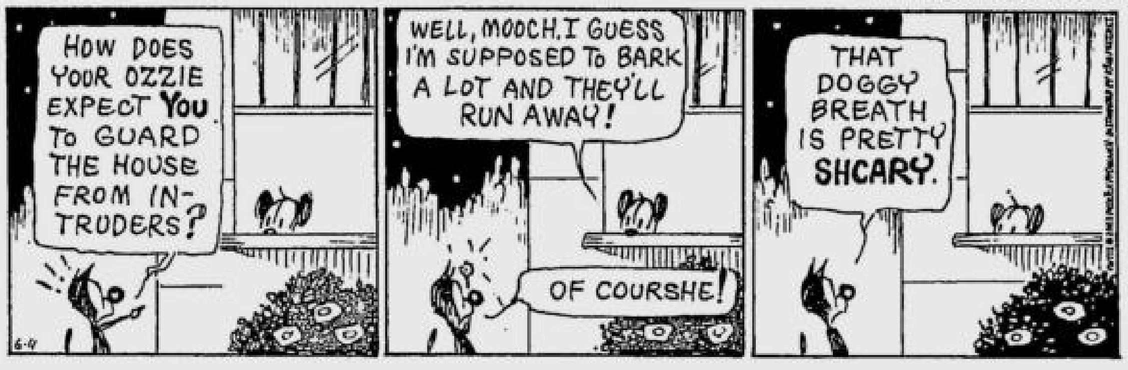
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... BA'ET NAKASHIMANGOT KA NA NAMAN?
KAYA KA NAGKAKA PELEGISH SHA MUKHA EH!
SINASHAYANG MO LANG ANG KAGANDAHAN MO SHA PAGIGING BUGNUTIN!
SHMIIIIILE!
O... AYAAAN! HINDI KA LANG MAGANDAH...
NAPAKA-SEKSHI MO PA!
LASHING KA NA NGA, KASIN...

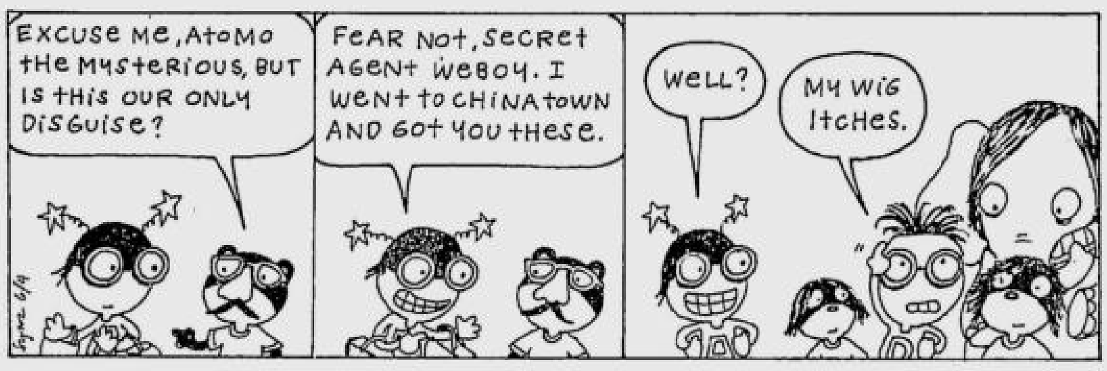
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


THERE'S NOTHING TO DO. I WISH WE HAD SOMETHING TO DO. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I KNOW! LET'S PLAY A GAME!
OKAY.
HOW DO YOU PLAY?
YOU JUST FIND A WAY TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELVES FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS, OR ELSE!
UM... MAYBE LATER. BYE!
I CALL IT "WHO WANTS TO LIVE UNTIL DINNERTIME?"
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

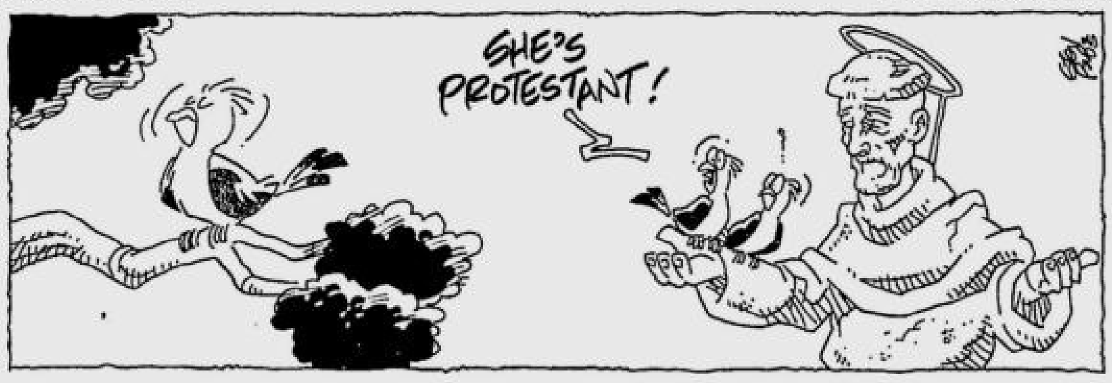
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOW DOES YOUR OZZIE EXPECT YOU TO GUARD THE HOUSE FROM IN-TRUDERS?
WELL, MOOCH, I GUESS I'M SUPPOSED TO BARK A LOT AND THEY'LL RUN AWAY!
OF COURSHE!
THAT DOGGY BREATH IS PRETTY SHCARY.
6-4

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


EXCUSE ME, ATOMO THE MYSTERIOUS, BUT IS THIS OUR ONLY DISGUISE?
FEAR NOT, SECRET AGENT WEBOY. I WENT TO CHINATOWN AND GOT YOU THESE.
WELL?
MY WIG ITCHES.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SHE'S PROTESTANT!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a quick mind and a wonderful facility with language. Not only are you articulate, you are highly intuitive as well. Remember that freedom is important to you. You must never sell out. You work well with others. The year ahead favors marriage and all social activities. Enjoy!
Birthdate of: Parker Stevenson, actor; Angelina Jolie, actress; Bruce Dern, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Passionate feelings of desire are strong within you today. You want to have fun; you want pleasure; you want to have your own way. (Good luck.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be extra-patient with others today, because today's Moon in Scorpio is directly opposite your sign. This is not the time to be demanding.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be careful you do not make promises at work that are later difficult to keep. Through pride or carelessness, you are tempted to bite off more than you can chew.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A friend might cause you to spend more money than you really want to today. You don't have to do this. There's no point in trying to impress someone if it only makes you miserable.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Take care of messy details at home today. Attend to garbage, laundry, cleaning, bathroom repairs and plumbing. Do all those little jobs you normally try to avoid or postpone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions about religious and spiritual matters do not flow easily today. Always respect the opinions of others; it is not necessary that they agree with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are tempted to spend too much money with friends, or possibly a group, today. (There's a lot of month left at the end of the money.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Bosses and VIPs might make promises that sound exciting and hopeful. Don't hold your breath. And don't count your chickens before they hatch. Time will tell.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a lovely day to enjoy art, music, ideas and profound discussions with others. Don't be afraid to stretch your mind and see a new point of view.

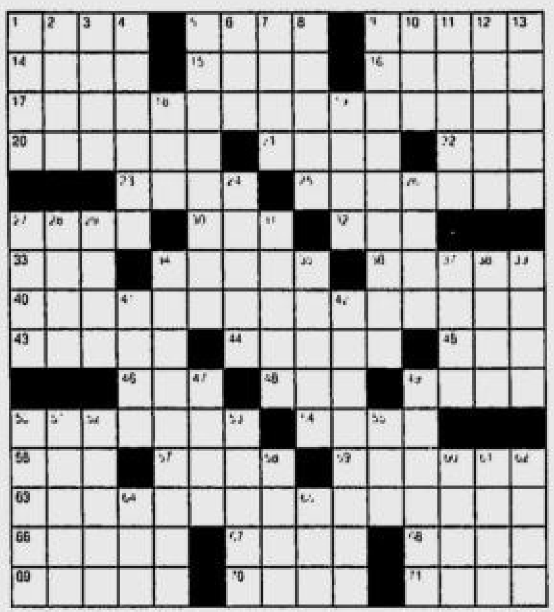
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be careful about committing to extra responsibilities with a group. You might get talked into something that you later regret. If you feel pressured, just tell others you want to sleep on it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Partners or bosses want to convince you to do something. If you want to, go ahead. If you don't want to, then stall. The pressure will let up in a day or two anyhow.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're excited about ideas to improve your health and your appearance. This is great! Take care of your body; you've only got one. (At the moment.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Polluted haze
5 Hold your horses!
9 Title-holder, casually
14 Secret language
15 Jug handles
16 Snug one's laces
17 Take on
20 Botch
21 Novi Sad resident
22 __ "King" Cole
23 Bikini pieces
25 Makes tidy
27 Agile
30 Part of TGIF
32 Tad's dad
33 Bulldog of Connecticut
34 Eavesdropper
36 Epic war story
40 Take on
43 Winter wool
44 Courses
45 Enemy
46 Poker bullet
48 Arctic explorer John
49 Fitness clubs
50 Malicious coward
54 Lascivious gander
56 Feedbag morsel
57 Boy with a bow
59 Goes to show
63 Take on
66 Divided Asian nation
67 Childhood taboo
68 "Leading with My Chin" writer
69 High-hat's look
70 Hitch
71 Hit sharply


By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
6/4/03

DOWN
1 Con
2 Style
3 __ and ends
4 Survives
5 Sign of slickiness?,
6 So there!
7 Mineral veins
8 Quaking tree
9 Chronic complainers
10 "Tell Laura I Love __"
11 Make up for
12 "The Last Supper" city
13 Peppers
18 Sharer's pronoun
19 Specialty
24 Small porch
26 Swiss marksman
27 Splinter group
28 Snow mover
29 Frozen fog
31 Underwater detector
34 Early TV superstar
35 Peony part
37 Uncertain
38 Tiny bit of physics
39 Performs
41 Butcher's offering
42 Collie
47 Goofs up
49 Guttural warnings
50 Piers
51 Hammerin' Hank
52 Put in mothballs
53 Gridiron plays
55 Trauma centers: abbr.
58 In due time
60 Standpoint
61 Peak in Sicily
62 Worn out
64 Get it?
65 Genetic letters

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	I	L	■	G	A	M	E	S	■	G	A	S	P
A	L	D	A	■	E	L	E	G	Y	■	U	C	L	A
W	I	L	M	I	N	G	T	O	N	■	L	U	A	U
S	T	E	E	R	E	R	S	■	■	E	A	R	N	S
■	■	■	N	A	V	E	■	B	A	G	G	A	G	E
C	H	A	T	T	A	N	O	O	G	A	■	■	■	■
A	E	R	I	E	■	■	F	L	A	N	D	E	R	S
P	E	N	N	■	I	N	T	E	R	■	E	X	E	S
E	L	E	G	A	N	C	E	■	■	S	E	G	E	R
■	■	■	G	R	A	N	D	R	A	P	I	D	S	■
S	E	Q	U	O	I	A	■	O	U	R	S	■	■	■
W	R	U	N	G	■	■	B	U	D	A	P	E	S	T
E	N	I	D	■	T	E	R	R	E	H	A	U	T	E
L	I	T	E	■	A	R	I	E	L	■	C	R	U	E
L	E	E	R	■	B	E	E	R	Y	■	E	O	N	S

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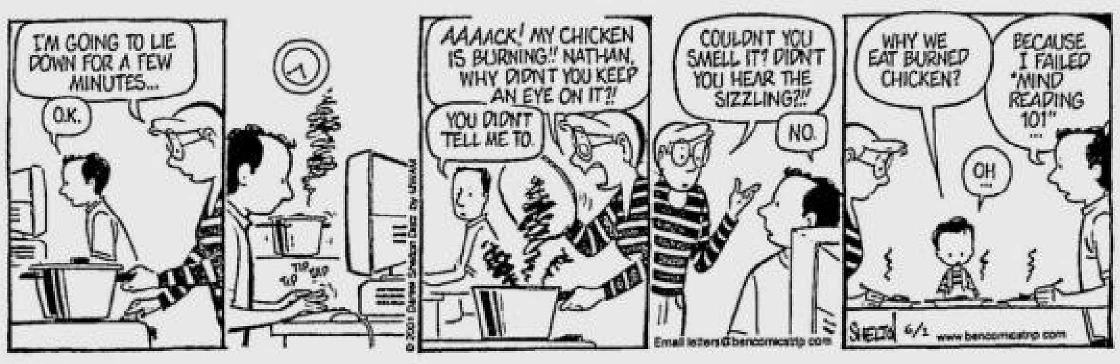
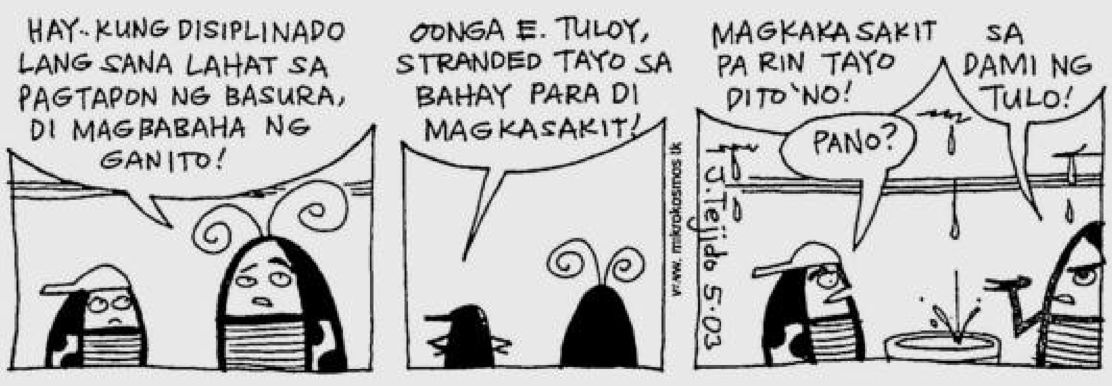
6/4/03

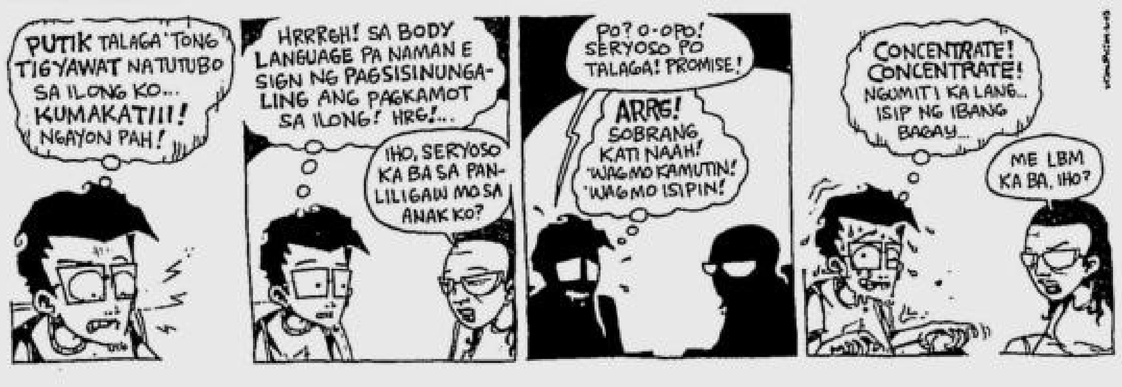
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M GOING TO LIE DOWN FOR A FEW MINUTES...
O.K.
AAAACK! MY CHICKEN IS BURNING!! NATHAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU KEEP AN EYE ON IT?!
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME TO.
COULDN'T YOU SMELL IT? DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE SIZZLING?!
NO.
WHY WE EAT BURNED CHICKEN?
BECAUSE I FAILED "MIND READING 101"
OH
www.bencomicstrip.com

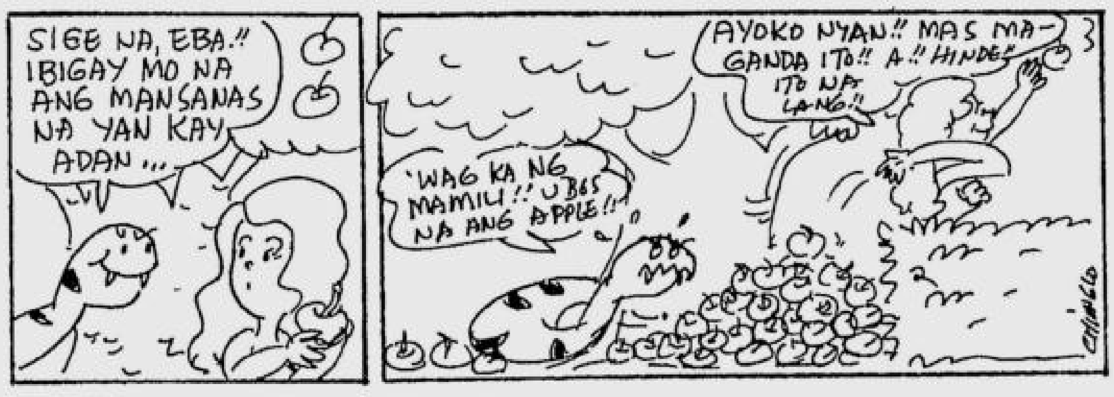
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY.. KUNG DISIPLINADO LANG SANA LAHAT SA PAGTAPON NG BASURA, DI MAGBABAHA NG GANITO!
OONGA E. TULOY, STRANDED TAYO SA BAHAY PARA DI MAGKASAKIT!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J.Tejido 5.03
MAGKAKASAKIT PA RIN TAYO DITO 'NO!
PANO?
SA DAMI NG TULO!

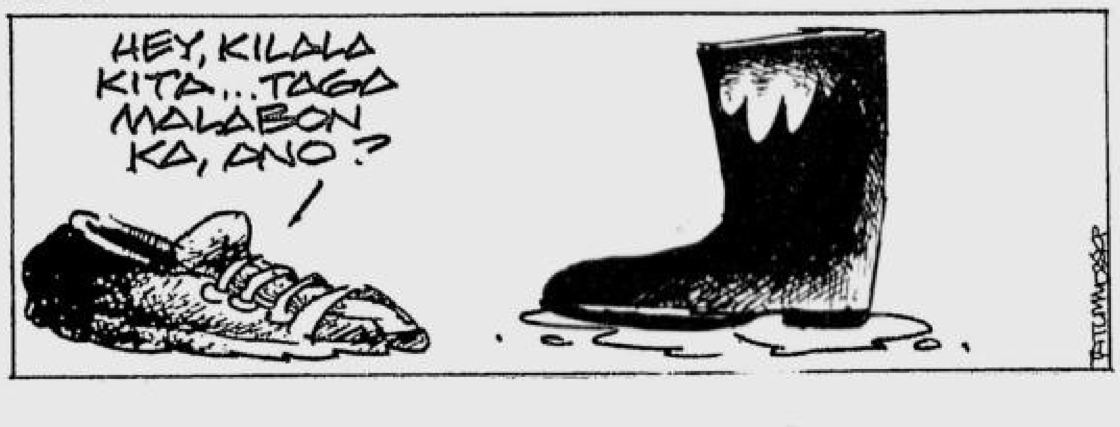
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


PUTIK TALAGA 'TONG TIGYAWAT NATUTUBO SA ILONG KO... KUMAKATIII! NGAYON PAH!
HRRRGH! SA BODY LANGUAGE PA NAMAN E SIGN NG PAGSISINUNGA-LING ANG PAGKAMOT SA ILONG! HRG!...
IHO, SERYOSO KA BA SA PAN-LILIGAW MO SA ANAK KO?
PO? O-OPO! SERYOSO PO TALAGA! PROMISE!
ARRG! SOBRANG KATI NAAH! 'WAG MO KAMUTIN! 'WAG MO ISIPIN!
CONCENTRATE! CONCENTRATE! NGUMITI KA LANG... ISIP NG IBANG BAGAY...
ME LBM KA BA, IHO?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIGE NA, EBA!! IBIGAY MO NA ANG MANSANAS NA YAN KAY ADAN...
AYOKO NYAN!! MAS MA-GANDA ITO!! A!! HINDE! ITO NA LANG!!
'WAG KA NG MAMILI!! UBOS NA ANG APPLE!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HEY, KILALA KITA... TAGA MALABON KA, ANO?

The college freshman survival kit

By Ivy S. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

FRESHMEN largely contribute to the chaos that is the first day of school. Their steps are tentative, thus the slower human traffic flow. They travel in "blocks," thus the clogging of corridors. And they're going through day-long orientations and introductions, thus the commotion.

If you're a would-be freshman, surely you and your friends have been feeding each other horror stories about bullying upperclassmen. When the day finally arrives, you do everything you can to appear older and sophisticated. This is fine, so long as you don't commit the mistake of overdressing.

You know you've crossed the line when some wiseacre comes up to you and quips, "Where's the party?". In this case, it's like having a flashing neon sign saying "Fresh Meat" on your forehead. It's really much better to keep a low profile if you're unsure about a lot of things, especially since most upperclassmen operate on the principle of seniority and resent new students who throw their weight around.

In any case, naughty upperclassmen aren't the only ones you have to worry about. You must realize that college is another culture entirely. It is unknown territory for you and it's best to be equipped with a few survival tips to set you off on the correct first steps.

Dos

Get organized. Plan your daily schedule around what you already know, such as chores, commuting time, study hours, etc. Have a calendar or a datebook to help you get things done.

Study. You cannot afford not to study. You need to establish your own study time and routine. You have to take down notes and exercise resourcefulness. No spoon-feeding in college. You really have to work hard for your grades.

Read more and watch better TV. It would be a good idea to start a morning paper habit. You can't just breeze through the papers looking for the funnies. Read the news, local and international, as well as the editorial section. As for television, get acquainted with the news channels instead of MTV or the Cartoon Network.

Read the student handbook. Be familiar with the guidelines and your rights. Know what you can and what you can't do in class, know the campus authorities, know the requirements to complete your courses.

Minimize your expenses. Look into the different scholarships available to students and take advance placement tests if your school has them. You can also learn frugality. Ask around where you can get things such as second-hand or cheaper textbooks.

> Don't attract the attention of upperclassmen. Study hard. Don't procrastinate. Network. And keep Attapulgite in your pocket

Learn how to enjoy your own company. If you're embarrassed about eating alone or not having friends to hang out with, try to grow a thicker hide. Nobody will think you're a social failure for being alone. Start associating yourself with the library.

Network. Getting to know your instructors and your fellow students is invaluable to learning and fulfilling your career plan. You may need them later for endorsements and references.

Take care of your health. Migraines and ulcers are quite common among college students. But you have to remember that seizing the day doesn't mean over-fatiguing yourself.

Don'ts

Don't think college is like high school. It's a vastly different world. In fact, even you yourself will probably change in a big way, too. One thing you need to know about college is that it is already part of the future. It's the first step to the future.

Don't cut classes. Playing hooky is not the mortal crime that it was in high school, but the repercussions are bigger. Missing one and a half hours of lecture can seriously set you back.

Don't commit to anything in the first semester. Try to settle down first before joining organizations or looking for a job.

Do not procrastinate. In college, everything was due yesterday and should have been finished a week ago.

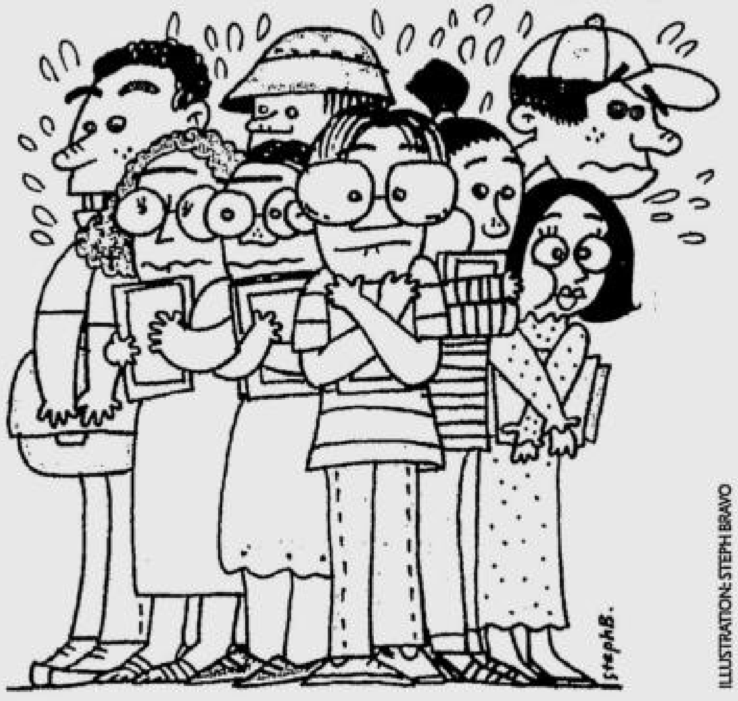


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

First-aid kit

When I was a freshman in UP, our blockhandlers gave us something that they called a "freshman first-aid kit." It had a map of the UP campus that traced the different jeepney routes and a list of UP jargon and acronyms that proved helpful to the clueless freshmen. We were also reminded, "*Ang nagtatanong ay mukhang tanga, pero ang hindi nagtatanong ay nanatiling tanga.*"

The people who will orient you on your first day will probably be thoughtful enough to put together something similar to that first-aid kit, but you could still bring your own to make sure that you've had most of your concerns covered.

Have a Pocket Planner or a Personal Digital Assistant. Do not rely on your memory. Note down important dates and gather your blockmates' contact information.

Read the student handbook.

Use post-its. Before the time of SMS, post-its were essential in conveying messages. You stick them to classroom or cafeteria doors with urgent notes to your friends. Now, they're still useful for reminders and taking down important information.

Use your ATM card. It's always good to be prepared for emergency expenses.

Have loose change for phone call and jeepney fare.

Keep mint or candy handy. They help in keeping you awake during long lectures.

Keep a hand sanitizer. You may not always have access to water and soap.

Keep Attapulgite. Headaches, dizziness, colds and muscle pains are a drag, but imagine having a sudden attack of diarrhea.

Carry around a book or a crossword puzzle. This will be handy for vacant hours.

Keep something inspirational. It could be a bookmark or a card with a verse from the Bible or a poem. This will inspire and motivate you to make college a really meaningful, productive and enjoyable phase in your young life.

Hand-me-down *stylish* clothes

From page D1

to buy them at all. Some schools may be lenient enough to allow you to attend classes wearing that old plain shirt without the collar, but some may be different. In fact, some may require you to dress up according to the standards of the corporate world once a week. You can still call yourself lucky if you have the money to buy a new set of clothes that could last you the whole week given the clothes you bought when you were still in high school. But if your parents' budget can only buy you a new pair of jeans and top, then that's a bigger problem than your dreaded subject for the semester. But there is always one person you can turn to. And this time, there is no haggling needed.

He or she gives you advice on how to win the heart of newfound love, helps you with your assignments, gives you tips about makeup, you name it. Most often than not, he or she can whip up the right formula for you. You are most likely to call them your second dad or second mom and they are none other than your *kuya* or *ate*.

HANS' first find

Mature style

I am a *kuya* myself and now that I am leaving the clothes I used to wear in college for a more mature style of clothing, there is no better option than to let my younger brother own some of the pieces. By doing so, I don't only help in my brother's discovery of his own style, but I also, believe it or not, help free my parents from the pressure of buying him new clothes.

MAKE your older sibling's wardrobe an extension of your own.

BASIC pieces can be mixed and matched for a new look.

I never thought I have enough clothes to put up an *ukay-ukay* store. From among the number of choices, here are the pieces my brother chose and I must admit, they look better on him than on me a year or two years ago.

Rave garments

While he was rummaging through my clothes, the first one that he was so eager to own was this polo shirt I bought from People are People, I think, a year ago. It's a four-colored striped shirt with a white collar that I enjoy wearing during rainy days because I feel like it takes off the day's gloom. His second choice was another piece of clothing from People are People. They were my only rave clothes—a black polo with dragon print and a pair of pants with gray lining. Wearing them elicited the words "kung fu" from my co-students.

Third was this retro-like polo from Oxygen I bought when I was in 4th year college that went well with any pair of jeans. I'll bet my collection of DVDs that it'll still be in style five years from now.

The fourth was a long black-sleeved polo by Anthony Nocom which my brother was eager to try on for the second time. In fact, he already borrowed it for his prom night. The other clothes were already too small for me like the shirt from Bora, jacket from Baguio's *ukay-ukay* and brown vest from Rustan's, so I deemed it proper to hand them down to my brother. Although I must admit that I am still playing with the idea that I'd return to that size. Who am I kidding?

As I have mentioned, it's better to be charitable to your siblings and in the end, have a more organized and spacious closet.

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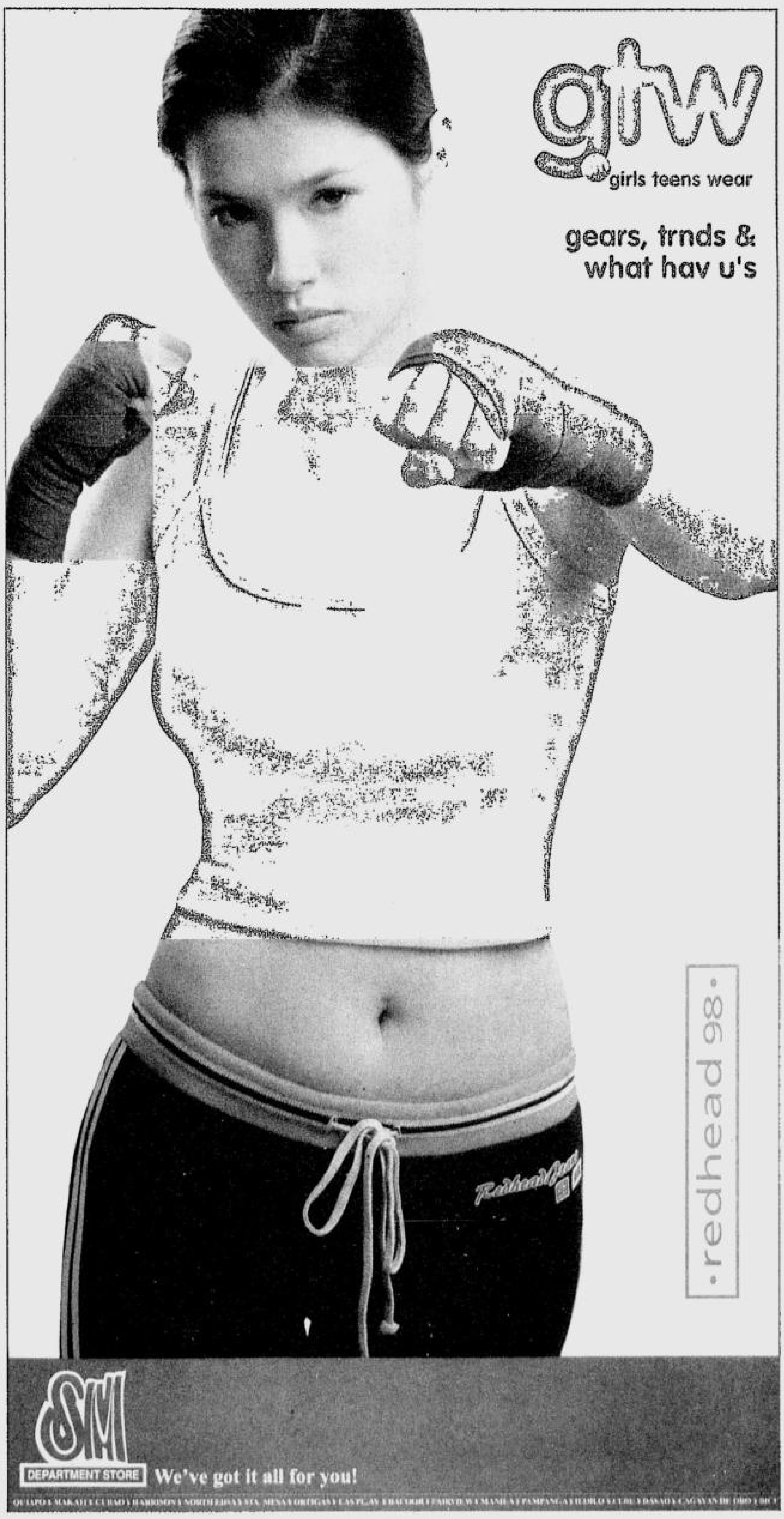
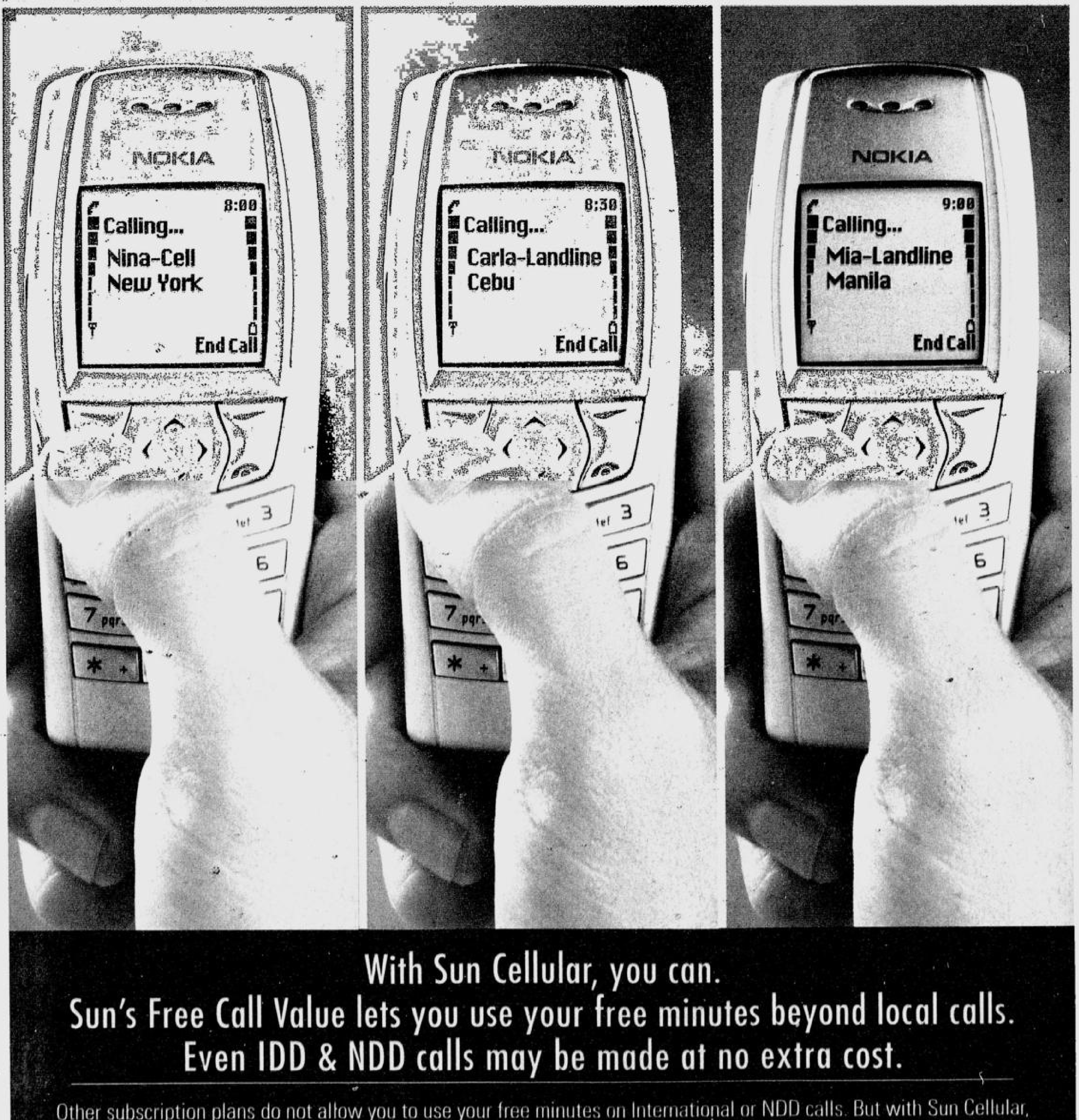


sun
CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

What if you could use your free minutes to call anyone, anywhere?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Carla-Landline
Cebu
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Calling...
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Manila
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